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Syria urges peace for security of oil

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria called on Saturday for action to prevent another war in the Middle East disrupting oil supplies and setting off a new environmental catastrophe. "We believe it is necessary to keep the danger of war away from our region which is rich in oil and gas," Oil Minister Mitanios Habib told an oil seminar. He said any new war in the region could lead to the burning of oil and gas wells and unleash a new environmental crisis similar that suffered by Kuwait in the Gulf war. "It is necessary to say that any war in this part of the world will pose the danger of a new environmental catastrophe resulting from the possibility of burning the oil and gas reserves," Mr. Habib said. He accused Israel of contributing to volatility in the region because of "the Israeli government's intransigence and continued refusal of the peace process." Mr. Habib said gas reserves discovered in Syria so far represented a tiny percentage of the country's potential "because exploration work has not covered more than 20 per cent of Syrian territory."

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Jordan to attend Cairo meeting

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Council of Ministers Saturday finalised Jordan's participation in a meeting of the Arab League Council in Cairo beginning June 29, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said. The meeting will discuss the introduction of Arabic as the official language for customs purposes in all Arab states. The ministers, meeting under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, also approved the opening of a honorary consulate of Bolivia in Jordan.

Israel to free Aqsa attack conspirator

AMMAN (J.T.) — Shimon Barda, head of the Israeli so-called "Lifta Gang," which had conspired to blow up the mosques on Haram Al Sharif in 1984, is to be released from prison shortly, after a parole committee commuted his sentence by a third for good behaviour, the Jerusalem Post reported Friday. Barda's group had scaled the wall surrounding the mosque area with a ladder, ropes and explosive devices, but fled when confronted by a guard.

9 killed in blast outside Tripoli

ASSAWANI, Libya (R) — Nine people were killed and 143 injured on Saturday when a depot storing fireworks and explosives blew up in the countryside outside the Libyan capital Tripoli, the official news agency JANA said. JANA said the blast tore through the depot containing fireworks and explosives used for road building and quarrying, 21 kilometres southwest of Tripoli, and that ambulances had rushed casualties to hospitals.

2 killed in Assiut shootout

ASSIUT, Egypt (AP) — Two Muslim militants were killed in a shootout with security forces at a village in the southern Assiut province, a police spokesman said Saturday. The gun battle, at the village of Sanabu, also left two schoolboys wounded, said the spokesman. It was the fifth shootout between security forces and Muslim militants in southern Egypt this month. The clashes grew out of a nationwide police alert ordered last month after Muslim extremists shot to death 13 Coptic Christians at the village of Manchiet Nasser, 40 kilometres north of the provincial capital Assiut.

Karachi clashes kill nine

KARACHI (R).— The death toll has risen to nine in Karachi where authorities have imposed a curfew after clashes between rival groups of a political party representing Indian immigrants, doctors said on Saturday. More than 40 people were also wounded in street battles between factions of the militant Mohajir National Movement (MQM) on Friday, said doctors in Karachi, Pakistan's main port and financial centre. Police sources said about 200 people had been arrested and the army was patrolling curfew areas in east Karachi, a stronghold of the MQM, one of the parties in Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's coalition government.

Japan, Gulf Arab states to meet on water

ABU DHABI (R) — Officials from six Gulf Arab states and Japan are to hold talks in October on ways to improve water resources in the arid desert region. A Japanese diplomat said in Abu Dhabi his government would pay costs for three officials from each Gulf Cooperation Council state to attend the talks in Tokyo, which will be the first of their kind between Japan and its major oil suppliers. Gulf states are seeking ways to exploit their meagre water resources and diversify supplies from desalination plants, which provide 70 per cent of their water needs but were in danger of being shut by oil spilled during the 1991 Gulf war oil spill. Two Japanese companies which have oil investments in the Gulf are to participate

Palestinians continue talks, say U.S. concern over PLO contacts addressed

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter with agency dispatches

AMMAN — Palestinian negotiators Saturday continued discussions on the Middle East peace process with little outward sign of worries over a furore in Israel over Thursday's publicised meeting between the Palestinian negotiators and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat and other PLO leaders.

Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi, one of the Palestinians who Israel says will be arrested upon their return to the occupied territories, was quoted as saying that she discussed the controversy with the American ambassador to Jordan, Roger Harrison, in a meeting Friday night.

During the talks, Mr. Harrison relayed Washington's "concerns and we explained the Palestinian position" regarding the public contacts between the delegates and the PLO, contacts with which are banned and punishable under Israeli law, Dr. Ashrawi was quoted as saying by the Associated Press.

The Palestinians say that the law does not apply them since they are not Israeli citizens. In any event, Dr. Ashrawi said Friday, the Israeli leadership would be better off focusing on more important issues related to the peace process than trying to punish the Palestinian negotiators.

Dr. Ashrawi described her talks with Ambassador Harrison as "extremely frank and friendly," and said: "I think that we resolved the issue... of the public meetings with the Palestinian leadership and the president (of Palestine, Mr. Arafat)," the AP reported.

She said she thought the American position was "quite restrained, quite reasonable and well thought out."

"They relayed to us their concerns and we explained our point of view — that we don't think this (meeting) was a provocation on our part and we think this supports the peace process," Dr. Ashrawi was quoted as saying by Reuters.

Nabil Sha'ath, a senior political advisor to Mr. Arafat, said the U.S. insistence on excluding the PLO from negotiating session ignored reality and the meeting did not violate the spirit of the peace process.

"The PLO is the legitimate leadership of the Palestinian people and nothing happens at the negotiating table or any other table without that legitimacy," Mr. Sha'ath told reporters.

"I think that the PLO has proven to the United States and everyone else its responsibility,

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House meets today with heavy agenda

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Today's opening of the extraordinary session of Parliament is expected to usher in a summer of long legislative discourse on the make-up of the democratic infrastructure of Jordan.

Finalised and approved versions of draft laws on political parties and press and publications are at the top of the agenda of the Lower House of Parliament.

Substantiative discussions on the political parties law are not expected to begin until next Wednesday. Sunday's official agenda is mainly a reading of the various draft laws and proposed amendments to existing laws which the House will tackle in the extraordinary session.

Some observers inside and outside Parliament feel that the agenda is far too large and believe that no comprehensive analyses of the amendments could be made during the two-month session.

"We will need two months (of debate) for the draft laws on political parties and press and publications. We cannot possibly look at 60 laws," said Amman Deputy Fakhri Kawar.

House Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat told the Jordan Times that the House "will do its best to get through the agenda."

Observers believe that it is an impossible task for the deputies to pass 60 amendments to some major and important legislation in two months and ensure that no seriousness is lost in the process.

"It is as if the wording of the Lower House agenda is to be taken literally — 'we ask you to implement' — and the House is just expected to pass the amendments and laws," said a veteran observer of the Jordanian parliamentary scene.

The task before the House inculdes debating economy related laws such as an economic crimes law, amendments to the labour law, illegal earnings law, customs law, licences law and the law which regulates the workings of the Audit Bureau.

Proposed amendments to the social security law, the civil status law and the universities law are also on the agenda.

Discussions are expected to begin Wednesday on the draft law on political parties as it was submitted to the House and a modified version of the draft incorporating amendments suggested by the Law Committee of the House.

While most of the five parliamentary blocs have not taken an official stance on the two versions, the Muslim Brotherhood Bloc has indicated that the government's version is not to its liking. The National Bloc has indicated that it prefers the government's draft to that proposed by the House's Law Committee.

"The government's draft of the law is similar to the political parties law in Egypt which excludes religious parties from being counted as political parties," said the Muslim Brotherhood's overall spokesman in Jordan Ziad Abu Ghanimeh. "The draft law prepared by the Law Committee, however, is in principle much more acceptable to us," Mr. Abu Ghanimeh said of the Law Committee's suggestions, which would allow for the legalisation of religious parties.

The Brotherhood and the independent Islamist bloc together hold 30 seats in 80-seat House. There are at least

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Azaideh, prominent Islamist, dies at 44

AMMAN (J.T.) — Ahmad Qtaish Al Azaideh, one of the most prominent leaders of the Muslim Brotherhood movement and member of the Lower House of Parliament, passed away Saturday after a prolonged battle with cancer. He was 44.

Mr. Azaideh, who has served as spokesperson for the Muslim Brotherhood's 23 deputies, was one of the senior leaders of the movement, which is the largest and best organised political party in the country. He was well-known for his good contacts with other political groups and for his active efforts as head of the Public Freedoms Committee of the Lower House.

Despite the strains of his illness, Mr. Azaideh continued to act as a representative of the moderate forces among the movement's ranks and maintained good contacts with colleagues in the House and the press. The highest public rank assigned to him was secretary general of the newly-founded Islamic Action Front which he held until illness prevented him from carrying on.

Mr. Azaideh was born in Madaba in 1948 and was married with eight children (five boys and three girls). He graduated from 'Ein Shams University in Cairo with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering. He was elected mayor of Madaba in 1981 and served in that post until 1989 when he won a seat at the Lower House.

He joined the Muslim Brotherhood movement while still in secondary school and progressed through its ranks to become one of its most senior leaders.

Mr. Azaideh was well-respected among the different political groups for his active involvement in promoting tolerance and political pluralism and for his contribution to the work of the General Commission on the National Charter, of which he was a member.

In a statement by the Brotherhood, Mr. Azaideh was lauded as "a thinker, leader, educator, speaker, worrier and worker for the cause of building the movement and until it became one of the main pillars of the Jordanian society."

In another statement, Hamas, an offshoot of the Muslim Brotherhood in the Israeli occupied Arab territories, said Mr. Azaideh was known for "his kind spirit, high manners ... and solid faith."

He was not deterred by sickness from working for Islamic causes, it said.

Ahmad Al Azaideh (1948-1992)

The speaker and members of the Lower House of Parliament also issued a statement announcing Mr. Azaideh's death. The statement described Mr. Azaideh's contributions as an example to be followed. "His life was a continued struggle and he was an example in his manners, awarenes and Arab and Islamic allegiance."

Mr. Azaideh will be laid to rest today in his birthplace, in Madaba, after the noon prayers. The funeral procession will leave the Islamic hospital, where he died, at 2.30 p.m.

Kuwait jails 4 Jordanian journalists

KUWAIT (AP) — The state security court on Saturday sentenced four Jordanians to 10 years in jail each for working at an Iraqi-run newspaper during the occupation.

Hassan Al Khalili, 57, Dawood Mousa, 42, Mohammad Zahran, 20, and Nawaf Al Khatib, 34, did not react when Judge Salah Al Fahad handed down the sentences.

In June of last year, a martial law court erupted in pandemonium when civilian and military judges condemned six others who worked at the same paper, Al Nida, to death. Ten others were sent to jail for 10 years and eight defendants were acquitted.

The martial law hearings, which were held after Kuwait's liberation by U.S.-led coalition forces in February 1991, were sharply criticised by international human rights groups and Kuwaiti defence attorneys for the lack of evidence presented in court.

The trials were suspended when martial law was lifted on June 26 last year. Twenty-nine death sentences have since been commuted to life imprisonment by the crown prince, Sheikh Saad Al abdullah Al Sabah.

Lawyers, say state security court judges who started reviewing cases of more than 100 alleged collaborators in April are giving them more time to prepare their defences and civil witnesses.

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Iraq-U.N. oil talks 'good' —Picco

VIENNA (Agencies) — Talks between Iraqi and United Nations officials on the possible resumption of Iraqi oil sales broke up on Saturday and will resume on Sunday, chief U.N. negotiator Giandomenico Picco told reporters.

"They were good talks," Mr. Picco said after a second round of discussions held at U.N. offices here.

Talks are scheduled to last throughout the weekend and possibly into Monday but Mr. Picco said he hoped to be able to make a further announcement on Sunday evening.

Under discussion is a U.N. plan which would allow Iraq to sell some $1.6 billion of oil over a six-month period under strict U.N. monitoring.

The proceeds from the oil sales would be used for paying war reparations and U.N. costs and to finance humanitarian relief efforts in Iraq.

Iraq has so far rejected the terms of the Security Council plan as a violation of its sovereignty, and two previous rounds of talks have ended without agreement.

Iraqi delegate Abdul Amir Al Anbari has cautioned against expectations that this week's Vienna meeting would resolve differences that the two previous meetings had failed to surmount.

Any decisions would have to be approved by senior U.N. and Iraqi officials in New York and Baghdad, said Mr. Anbari, before meeting Mr. Picco Saturday.

Iraq insists that U.N. monitoring of its exports of crude over a six-month-period with limitations on using profits impinges on its sovereignty.

Iran urges release of Israel- held hostages

CRANS MONTANA, Switzerland (R) — Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati called Saturday for the early release of hostages held in Israel to clear the way for a better international climate.

Mr. Velayati, speaking to reporters at an international forum in this Swiss mountain resort, was making the first high-level comment from a Tehran official since two German aid workers, the last Western hostages held in Lebanon, were freed this week.

"We are very happy to see some of the hostages have been released. It is our hope that other hostages will now be released soon," he told a news conference.

"There are some Iranian hostages and some Lebanese hostages. Maybe the Iranian hostages in Lebanon have been deported to Israel. Some Lebanese hostages are now in Israel," Mr. Velayati said.

"Of course, the release of hostages will prepare the ground for better relations among the nations."

Mr. Velayati gave no details about Iranian and Lebanese hostages but pro-Iranian groups say Israel has seized many of its activists in the "security zone" it controls in South Lebanon.

Mr. Velayati denied Israeli allegations that Iran is trying to build a nuclear bomb by the end of the century.

"We categorically deny" the allegations, Mr. Velayati told reporters at a meeting of international leaders organised by the private firm Forum Foundation.

Iran is open to international inspection of its nuclear facilities, and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) recently confirmed that Iran neither has nuclear weapons nor does it have facilities to make them, he said.

"There is no doubt that we are loyal to the international laws in this connection," Mr. Velayati said.

Israel should open its own nuclear facilities to IAEA inspection, he said.

Mr. Velayati, who told the conference on disarmament in Geneva this week that it was well-known that Israel already has a nuclear arsenal, said the Jewish state's refusal to sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty was a serious problem for the Middle East.

Israel should also renounce chemical and biological weapons, he said.

"We can then move towards a Middle East free of all weapons of mass destruction," Mr. Velayati said, and he recalled the Iranian initiative for an end to nuclear weapons everywhere.

'Super-C' wave in Middle East worries Washington amid anti-Saddam campaign

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Against the backdrop of reports of a covert American-led dumping of counterfeit Iraqi dinars to undermine the Iraqi economy, a new wave of forged American dollars has hit the local and regional markets, raising deep concern in Washington if only because of the high quality of the forgery, according to informed sources.

Amman dealers who have come across the aptly named "Super-C" bills — the latest addition to the abundant supply of counterfeit greenback in the international market — say that the new dud notes of $100 denomination are "almost near perfect" and will not only pass muster but also anything short of expert inspection by specialists.

"The paper and ink appear to be the same," said one source. "The artist, whoever it is, has shaken the belief that many features of the $100 bills are beyond immitation," the source added. "There appears to be only one or two flaws in the new batch and these could be detected only by the best of experts in the field."

Most dealers say if the quality of paper and ink is the same as the original, then the water mark and semi-metallic band would offer the best clues to detect forgeries.

The lettering on the reverse side of $100 bills, particularly the "t" and "o" in "The United States of America," is said to be the major flaws in the "Super-C" notes.

In any event, almost all dealers and banks routinely put their own tiny rubber stamps or initials on all genuine notes that they come across. For many dealers these stamps are the proof of genuinity.

By all counts, it is the high quality and not necessarily the volume of "Super-C" circulated in the Middle Eastern market that is worrying the U.S. monetary authorities. A Cyprus-based Secret Service agent visited Amman recently and briefed businessmen representing American interests in Jordan on the subject. The agent, whose name was not immediately available, also held talks with Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) officials, sources said (The Secret Service, in addition to offering personal protection to the American president, is in charge of the battle against counterfeit U.S. currency. In fact, it was one of the major tasks of the Secret Service when it was constituted about 100 years ago).

All banks and other points that deal in foreign banknotes in Jordan have been alerted against the "Super-C" wave. No comment was immediately available from the police department whether any breakthrough has been made in investigations.

Jordan faced a huge influx of counterfeit currency — including American, British, German and Saudi — in 1989 and 1990 police officials have said that the situation was brought more or less under control with the arrest and conviction of dozens of individuals and the busting of several gangs.

Banking circles outrightly reject suggestions that Iraq, which is battling the massive dumping of forged Iraqi dinars in the Iraqi market from several sources, could be behind the new dud notes in a bid to hit back at the U.S., which is said to be leading the effort to oust the Iraqi government of President Saddam Hussein through economic and political subversion after having failed to dislodge the regime in war last year.

"How could anyone suspect the Iraqis, who could not produce their own notes with any degree of quality?" commented one banker referring to the officially-issued, "photocopied" Iraqi dinars appearing in the market after Baghdad failed to persuade Britain to hand over printed Iraqi currency, ordered prior to the Gulf crisis.

The source of the new forged dollars, many experts say, could be either Iran or Israel if not Thailand, which is notorious for its counterfeit artists, whether in banknotes, travellers cheques or U.S. government bonds.

"Iranians and Israelis have a record of producing high-quality forgeries," noted one dealer. "The Iranian government itself acknowledged the high quality of the Iranian 'product' when it reported the arrest of a well-organised counterfeiting group two years ago, while it is known that an Israeli ring operated

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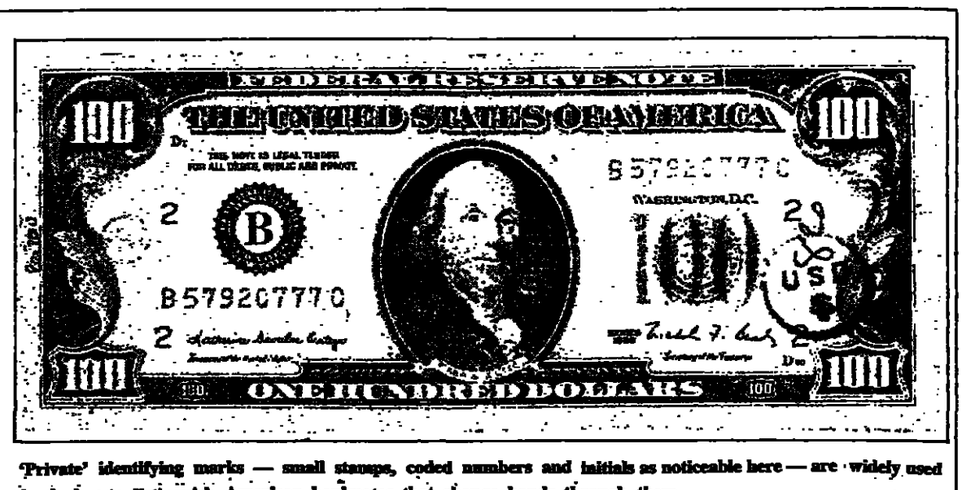
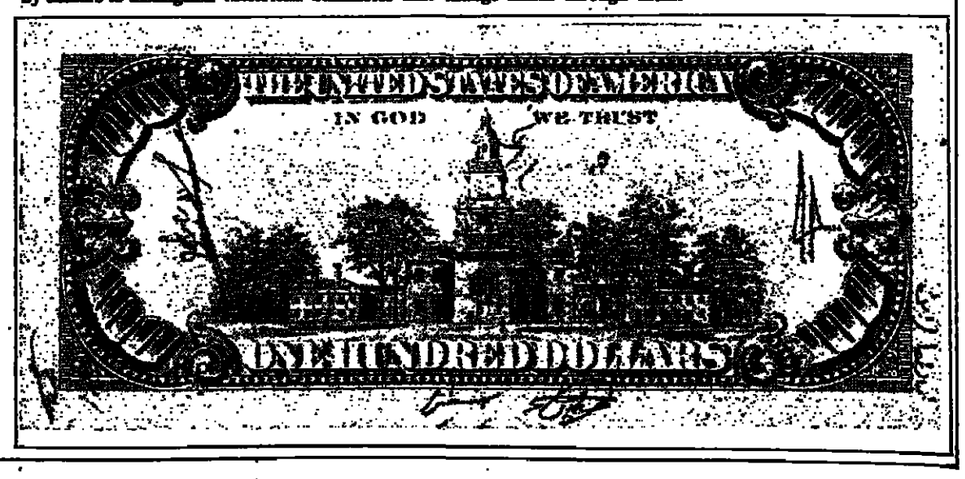


'Private' identifying marks — small stamps, coded numbers and initials as noticeable here — are widely used by dealers to distinguish American banknotes that change hands through them.



Iraq continuing to stall on nuclear data — IAEA

VIENNA (Agencies) — Iraq continues to stall on implementing U.N. Security Council resolutions and has been cheating on nuclear material production data, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said Friday.

IAEA Director General Hans Blix told a closed-door meeting of the board of governors and journalists afterwards that the agency still lacks requests information on foreigners who supplied parts and advice for the Iraqi centrifuge enrichment programme.

The progamme was designed to manufacture enriched uranium, apparently for nuclear bombs.

But Mr. Blix did say that Iraq continues to provide support in the form of equipment, materials and manpower to fulfill security council resolutions to destroy its nuclear facilities.

Despite a previous pledge, he said, Iraq had baulked at providing procurement data during the visit of the 12th IAEA team to Iraq May 26-June 4.

Mr. Blix said it was clear "that the political decision not to divulge information of this nature is still in force.

"According to their officials, this position is based on 'moral grounds which Iraq is not prepared to abandon' and the 'principle of respect for ethics, rules and norms of international trade dealings amongst various parties.'"

Mr. Blix announced the IAEA would continue to seek information through other channels regarding suppliers to Iraq of maraging steel, carbon fiber rotor tubes and technical advice for their centrifuge programme.

"But this approach will take time," he added.

The last IAEA team also noticed "a perceptible stiffening in the Iraqi attitude towards *working with the inspection* team.

"There were numerous instances involving attempts, subsequently relinquished, to prohibit or limit the taking of photographs and the placing of seals," Mr. Blix reported.

"Transportation was often slow, meetings were delayed, sometimes, cancelled, rescheduled, and then delayed again."

The Iraqi explanation was that they were not being rewarded for *their "high level of cooperation"* since stiff U.N. sanctions were still in force.

Mr. Blix also said that Iraq had "understated" the amounts of material not under IAEA control in a "safeguarded" or controlled fuel fabrication facility.

The Iraqis had said they had manufactured a total of some 19 kilogrammes of "unsafeguarded" natural uranium dioxide pellets in five fuel assemblies.

But during their 12th mission, IAEA inspectors found that an additional 26 kilogrammes of such pellets and 14 kilogrammes of pellets in fresh fuel rods had been fabricated in that facility.

Iraq mocks U.S. plans

Iraq has said that U.S. plans to tighten the blockade on Baghdad reflected despair in Washington with attempts to overthrow President Saddam Hussein.

Al Thawra, the newspaper of the ruling Baath Party, said: "The rallying of the nation behind the leadership of President Saddam Hussein will keep haunting the criminal Bush by reminding him of the failure of his aggressive, nati-Iraq policies.

"Now it (the United States) is trying to break Iraq's national will and force it to deviate from its principles."

The United Nations imposed the sanctions in reaction to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in August 1990. U.S. officials have said they should stay as long as President Saddam is in power.

Al Thawra was reacting to reports that the United States and some of its allies are considering a plan under which the United Nations might send inspectors to Jordan to tighten the U.N. trade embargo against Iraq.

"This dirty American plan illustrates how far the criminal (U.S. President George) Bush is ready to go in his conspiracies against Iraq," it said.

U.S. intelligence reports say *President Saddam is now stronger* than a year ago despite economic sanctions and diplomatic isolation.

The reports, published by the official press on Thursday, have been received with glee in Baghdad.

The New York Times said on Tuesday that one alleged factor that has improved President Saddam's position was the widespread smuggling of construction materials, electrical equipment, spare parts and luxury goods to Iraq from Jordan in violation of U.N. sanctions.

Al Thawra said Jordan has turned down the U.S. plan and *the Iraqi people were determined* to persevere against sanctions regardless of the sacrifices.

President Saddam told his people on Tuesday he was confident they could withstand greater hardships than those caused by the Gulf war and the sanctions.

U.S. congressman on Demjanjuk case: 'I was just doing my job'

CLEVELAND (AP) — Three years ago, U.S. Representative James Traficant ignored political advice by taking up the cause of the man convicted as the Nazi guard "Ivan the terrible."

Now, his persistent claims that John Demjanjuk might not be "Ivan" have been bolstered by recent developments in the case.

Mr. Demjanjuk, a 72-year-old retired auto worker from Suburban Cleveland, is appealing his death sentence before the Israeli supreme court. The Ukrainian-born Demjanjuk says he was a victim of mistaken identity.

Israeli prosecutors this month conceded there might be some doubt about the identity of *"Ivan." A U.S. appeals court* initiated a review of its 1986 extradition order against him, and the Justice Department said it uncovered documents it had since 1978 that might prove Demjanjuk was not "Ivan."

In those reports, two other guards at the Treblinka camp, where about 850,000 people were killed in 1942-43, said during interrogation that another man, not Demjanjuk, operated the gas chamber.

Mr. Traficant, a four-term Ohio Democrat, said he became convinced Demjanjuk was not "Ivan" when shown U.S. government documents that Demjanjuk supporters found in trash in Washington. They called into question the testimony of a witness against Demjanjuk at his extradition hearing.

Mr. Traficant used forums such *as television shows to defend* Demjanjuk, getting plenty of criticism in the process.

"I felt abused and accused," Mr. Traficant said. "The next person that accuses me of being an anti-Semite, I'm going to punch their ... lights out."

Mr. Traficant represents the Youngstown area, 120 kilometres southeast of Cleveland, but Demjanjuk's family went to him partly because they said they got no help from their own congress*man.*

Herb Asher, a political science professor at Ohio State University, said Mr. Traficant's involvement was unusual because of the case's sensitivity.

"Often on issues or individuals that are very controversial, members of congress will shy away," Mr. Asher said.

Recall of U.N. envoy no surprise in Kabul

KABUL (R) — The recall of U.N. special envoy for Afghanistan Benon Sevan on Friday was inevitable once his efforts to broker a peaceful transfer of *power from the Najibullah gov*ernment to rebel Afghan forces failed, according to diplomats and analysts.

"Nobody acquainted with Afghanistan and recent developments here can be surprised by Sevan's recall," said one European diplomat who asked not to be *named.*

The diplomat said Mr. Sevan had arranged for former President Najibullah to resign, but the country was now "on the verge of another civil war."

Mr. Sevan, an Armenian Cypriot, spent three years trying to bring Afghanistan's 14-year conflict, which claimed more than a million lives, to an end.

As Afghan guerrilla forces closed in on Kabul, he persuaded Mr. Najibullah to resign and hand power to a 15-man council, but the deal fell apart in the early hours of April 16.

A last-minute betrayal from within Mr. Najibullah's own government prevented the president from flying out of Kabul airport. He was forced to take refuge in a U.N. compound in the city centre, where he remains in hinding *two months later.*

The 15-man council was never formed, and the transition deteriorated into chaos as rival guerrilla groups took the city and began fighting among themselves.

An uneasy peace hangs over Kabul today, but the question of how to mould a national government out of guerrilla factions divided by religion, ethnicity, language and party politics remains unresolved.

Mr. Sevan criticised the slow international response to a recent U.N. appeal for $178 million in donations for refugee repatriation and reconstruction in Afghanistan.

That complaint may have sealed the special envoy's fate. He was recalled shortly afterwards while preparing to fly from Pakistan to Kabul on Friday.

But Western diplomats at U.N. headquarters in New York said Secretary-General Boutros Ghali was pleased with Mr. Sevan's work in Afghanistan and he would probably be promoted.

A U.N. spokesman said his replacement would be Sotirios Mousouris, an assistant secretary-general for political affairs.

The change could accompany a radical restructuring of the entire U.N. programme for Afghanistan, which has been based principally in Pakistan where most of the five million Afghan refugees are located.

With tens of thousands of refugees returning to Afghanistan, diplomatic sources in Kabul say the U.N.'s operational base must shift to the Afghan capital.

The question being asked here is whether Mr. Sevan's recall marks an eventual downgrading of Afghanistan on the international agenda.

The United States and the former Soviet Union fought a proxy war in Afghanistan for a decade, but the collapse of the Soviet empire and rapprochement between Moscow and Washington have reduced the country's global strategic significance.

The danger is that individual Afghan guerrilla parties, backed by regional powers Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Iran, may fill the vacuum left by Mr. Sevan's abortive peace plan and catapult the country into a second civil war.

One man who cannot have welcomed the news of Mr. Sevan's recall is Mr. Najibullah.

"Najibullah's situation must worsen," said a diplomat. "Now there is no one here who has made a commitment to save him."

Iran Mujahedeen report riots in Tehran suburbs

NICOSIA (R) — An Iraq-based Iranian opposition group said Saturday that violent clashes had taken place between Revolutionary Guards and protesters in Tehran's southern suburbs.

In a communique sent to Reuters, the Mujahedeen-e-Khalq said several guardsmen and demonstrators were wounded when security forces moved in to halt protests in the southern Tehran districts of Islamshahr, Shatereh and Goldasteh township.

There was no independent confirmation of the Mujahedeen report.

The Mujahedeen said people were chanting "down with (Iranian President Akbar Hashemi) Rafsanjani," "Down with Supreme leader Ali) Khamenei." It said the unrest took place "in recent days."

Another anti-government demonstration took place in the town of Damavan, east of Tehran, on June 18, the exiled opposition group said.

Last weekend, the Mujahedeen reported serious unrest in Bukan, six days before the first word of the riots in the western Iranian town appeared in the Iranian press.

Iran's Salam newspaper reported the Bukan unrest last Thursday in a commentary criticising the government media for keeping people in the dark about recent violent demonstrations in several Iranian cities.

The worst Iranian riots in the past decade rocked the northeastern city of Mashhad on May 30. The southern city of Shiraz and Arak in the west hit by riots in April and May.

Revolutionary Courts executed four men in Mashhad and four in Shiraz for rioting.

In Saturday's statement, the Mujahedeen said a key Revolutionary Guards unit, the 27th Mohammad Rassolallah Division, had been moved to Tehran from western Iran in case of more unrest in the capital.

Iran paper says U.S. ties still a way off

TEHRAN (R) — A Tehran newspaper has said that as long as the U.S. labelled Iran a terrorist state, events like releasing the last Western hostages would not *normalise ties.*

Abrar was the only Tehran daily commenting on U.S. President George Bush's remarks that the release on Wednesday of two *German aid workers held by pro-*Iranian kidnappers removed a key obstacle to better Iran-U.S. relations.

"Bush's remarks show that they urgently need relations (with Iran)," said Abrar, whose views do not always reflect the Iranian government's policy.

Mr. Bush, in a Cable News Network interview on Monday, said the German hostages' release "would remove an enormous impediment to better relations with Iran."

"We still have some other problems with Iran, as you know. But I will be watching this very carefully," he said.

Shamir shares secret information with Rabin

PRIME Minister Shamir has shared secret government negotiating documents on the peace process with Labour leader Yitzhak Rabin and allowed Israel's chief negotiator to brief Rabin on progress after each round of talks in Washington, *The Jerusalem* Post has learned.

Elyakim Rubinstein, chief Israeli negotiator on Palestinians and one of Shamir's most trusted aides, briefed Rabin after each of the last several rounds of talks in Washington, showing him all the negotiating documents tied to the peace process.

This was confirmed last night by Rabin spokesman Gad Ben-Ari after a senior Israeli official disclosed this to the Post.

This quiet cooperation between Shamir and Rabin is a departure from the past, when the prime minister refused to brief Rabin's predecessor as opposition leader, Shimon Peres. Even during the Gulf war, Shamir refused to brief Peres because of bitter enmity between the two. Rabin became head of the Labour opposition last February.

After checking with Rabin, Ben-Ari verified that Rabin has indeed seen the papers, but had *not told even his own closest* aides or party members about them, having pledged to Shamir not to do so.

"Shamir's condition was that it be kept secret," said Ben-Ari. "Shamir said Rabin would be allowed to see all the documents on a 'personal basis'," in other words, not in his capacity as head of the opposition.

Ben-Ari said the arrangement began after Rabin asked Shamir *to be kept informed about peace* negotiations when the premier appeared earlier this year before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee. Shamir considered the proposal, then consented so long as Rabin would keep the arrangement secret, Ben-Ari said.

Rabin has publicly blasted the peace process led by Shamir as a waste of time without a "millimeter" of progress. He has also criticized the current government for meeting with Arab interlocutors for only a few days a month. Rabin has said what is needed is not a "peace process but a peace-making process that meets on a continuous basis."

The fact that Shamir wants to keep Rabin up to date reinforces the general impression that the *two maintain a high level of trust* on a very sensitive issue, as they did during the unity government between 1984-1990.

While neither the Likud nor *Labour find it in their electoral* interest to declare support for a unity government on the eve of an election, neither have ruled out such option, either — *The Jerusalem Post.*

Iraqi dissidents elect body to lead campaign

VIENNA (R) — Iraqi opposition activists elected an assembly on Friday to coordinate efforts to topple President Saddam Hussein — despite criticism from other anti-Baghdad groups.

A four-day conference on more than 200 activists in Vienna elected the 68-member body to coordinate opposition to President Saddam and adopted a series of proposals on how Iraq should be run after his fall.

"This is a turning point because it is the first time Iraqis are operating in the open without any *guardianship, influence or con*trol," conference spokesman Laith Kubba told journalists.

Groups from a major opposition alliance, the Tehran-based Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI), stayed away from the Vienna talks, saying they lacked unity *and were poorly prepared.*

Organisers said the assembly was still open to SCIRI members should they decided to participate later. But even without them, they said, the talks achieved unprecedented unity amongst groups divided by religious and ethnic differences.

More than 60 Iraqi groups seek President Saddam's fall, but there has been little coordination among them, with Kurds, Sunnis, Shiite's and Christians all jostling for position.

Mr. Kubba said the assemly included representatives of all Iraq's diverse religious and ethnic groups, according to Iraq's de*mographic make-up.*

He added that the talks had also provided the opposition with their first forum for discussion outside the influence of neighbouring Saudi Arabia, Syria and Iran, which have their own ideas on what sort of regime should replace President Saddam.

"It wasn't smooth in terms of having full unity — but we're in a real world and I think for the first time Iraqis have something real to work on," Mr. Kubba said.

The conference also adopted a series of resolutions on human rights, economic recovery, and constitutional reform for Iraq.

These included stepping up *pressure to bring President Sad*dam to trial, appealing for a release of part of Iraq's frozen assets for humanitarian aid, and requesting a reduction in Iraq's

Saddam Hussein.

financial liability for the Gulf and Iran-Iraq wars.

"The Iraqi people cannot be held fully responsible for the actions of the government of Saddam Hussein," Mr. Kubba said.

Conference sources said a major issue at the talks was the status of Kurdistan in a post-Saddam Iraq and that wrangling over the wording of a definition of the Kurds' position continned into the early hours.

Kurdish guerrillas, helped by Western forces, have regained control over most of Northern Iraq since the collapse of their rebellion after the Gulf war last year.

By controlling territory and organising free elections as the basis for self-government in the north, they have made themselves the most successful of President Saddam's opponents.

Kurdish leaders have said the extent of cooperation with other opposition groups depended on clear assurances that they would have a right to self-determination.

Mr. Kubba said the final text agreed at the conference gave Kurds" the right of self determination, short of secession and within the one Iraqi homeland."

Kurdish leaders said the wording was "workable compromise" but the opposition conference could only be termed a true success once it got its message across inside Iraq.

"I wouldn't call this conference *a turning point but an important* step forward for the opposition," Kurdish Democratic Party representative Hoshyar Zebari told Reuters.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Iran pardons more than 1,500 prisoners

NICOSIA (R) — Supreme Iranian leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has pardoned or cut the sentences of 1,528 prisoners to mark two Muslim feasts, Tehran Radio said Saturday. The pardon, customary on major Islamic and national holidays, follows the execution of eight men in the Iranian cities of Mashhad and Shiraz last week for rioting. Ayatollah Khamenei last week urged security forces to hunt down the "bullies and ruffians" whom he blamed for the riots and "throw them away like weeds." A spokesman for the Iraq-based Mujahedeen-e-Khalq opposition group dismissed the pardon as a propaganda ploy to cover up the hangings and the arrest of "thousands" after the riots. The pardon was on the occasion of the 'Eid Al Adha last week and the Eid Al Ghadir, celebrated by Shiites as the day the Prophet Mohammad named his cousin Ali as his successor, which was marked Saturday.

Lubavitch rabbi doing well after surgery

NEW YORK (AP) — Rabbi Menachem Schneerson, the 90-year-old spiritual leader of the Lubavitch sect of Hasidic Jews, was in stable condition in a hospital intensive care unit after his severely infected gall bladder was removed, a hospital spokeswoman said. Mount Sinai hospital's chief surgeon, Arthur Aufses, said he brought Rabbi Schneerson to the operating room quickly for emergency surgery Thursday morning when tests indicated that the gall bladder was gangrenous. The Lubavitchers, one of several sects of the ultra-orthodox Hasidic movement in Judaism, claim a million adherents worldwide, but other estimates put their numbers as low as 100,000.

U.S. judge acquits helicopter executives

MIAMI (AP) — A federal judge acquitted two men of conspiring to sell combat helicopters to Iraq after finding that the U.S. government had signalled it was leaning towards Baghdad in the Iran-Iraq war. A co-defendant, imprisoned Miami arms dealer Sarkis Soghanalian, who was convicted of the same charge in an earlier trial, should be freed immediately on an appeal bond, his attorney Neal Sonnett said. U.S. District Judge Kenneth Ryskamp issued his ruling Wednesday in the case of former Hughes Helicopter executives Carl Perry and William Ellis. The United States was publicly trying to discourage arms sales to Iraq or Iran, then engaged in a bloody war, saying it wished to maintain strict neutrality. But Mr. Ryskamp said the government had in effect given the defendants a different signal. The two were accused of helping Mr. Soghanalian set up the 1983 sale of 103 helicopters that could be converted to military use, and disguising the deal as a sale to Kuwait. The sale never went through. One key witness in Perry *and Ellis' trial — retired Hughes President Jack Real* — testified last week that in 1983, the State Department told him that its policy barring weapons sales to Iraq would change soon. Mr. Real did not testify in Mr. Soghanalian's trial, noted Mr. Sonnett. He also charged that prosecutors failed to tell the defence the witness had informed them about his State Department meetings. That gives Mr. Soghanalian more grounds for appeal, and Mr. Sonnett said he hoped the government would agree to freeing the arms dealer on bond pending a decision by the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. Mr. Soghanalian is now serving a six year prison sentence at the metropolitan correctional centre.

Ethiopian factions blame state for massacre

ADDIS ABABA (AP) — An opposition group has accused the interim government of massacring hundreds of peasants earlier this month. A government spokesman denied the charge. The All-Amara People's Organisation, which is boycotting Ethiopia's first democratic elections on Sunday, made the allegation in an open letter to parliament. It accused a representative of President Meles Zenawi's government of ordering the killings in the central Shewa region and said victims were shot dead or burned in their huts June 3-4. Shewa is home to Ethiopia's capital, Addis Ababa. The alleged massacre occurred in a mountainous region north of the city, which has a history of violence between the Amara and Oromo ethnic groups. Mr. Meles' faction dominates the government, formed after a coalition of rebel groups forced Mengistu Haile Mariam into exile in Zimbabwe a year ago. The All-Amara group did not say how many people were killed in the alleged massacre. It claimed the killings were ordered by the commander of the local militia of the Oromo People's Democratic Organisation, a partner with Mr. Meles' Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front. A government spokesman, Haile-Kiros Gesese, *denied the allegation. He said a resurgence of ethnic violence in the* province this month had resulted in deaths, but he claimed the toll would have been much higher had government forces not intervened. He did not say how many were killed in the clashes.

Ultra-orthodox Israeli official to meet Mubarak

TEL AVIV (R) — An ultra-orthodox Israeli official will visit Egypt for talks with President Hosni Mubarak on Thursday, Israel's Itim news agency said. Deputy Labour Minister Rabbi Menachem Porush was invited to see Mr. Mubarak after a series of meetings with Egypt's ambassador to Israel, Mohammad Bassiouny, Itim quoted Rabbi Porush's office as saying.

Spain, Morocco to mount joint exercise

RABAT (R) — Spain and Morocco will take part in a joint air force exercise codenamed "Atlas 92" for six days from June 22 over the Mediterranean, the Moroccan news agency MAP said.

Ghanaian to head U.N. Iraq-Kuwait force

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Major-General Timothy Dibuama of Ghana, who has been military adviser to U.N. secretaries-general for 12 years, will become commander of the U.N. Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM) from July 12, the United Nations said. Gen. Dibuama, 55, succeeds Major-General Gunther Greindl of Austria, who has headed the 300-observer force since its establishment in April 1991 to *monitor a demilitarised zone* between Iraq and Kuwait. Gen. Greindl, 53, who has previously served with U.N. peacekeeping operations in Cyprus and on the Golan Heights, is returning to his country's service.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 ..... Michael Vaillant
17:45 ..... Des Chiffers et Des Lettres
18:10 ..... L'ecole des Fans
19:00 ..... News French
19:15 ..... Carnet de Notes
19:30 ..... News in Hebrew
20:00 ..... News in Arabic
20:30 ..... Wings
21:10 ..... Documentary
22:00 ..... News in English
22:20 ..... Law and Order

PRAYER TIMES

03:51 ..... Fajr
05:25 ..... *(Sunrise) Duha*
12:36 ..... Dhuhr
16:16 ..... 'Asr
19:47 ..... Maghreb
21:22 ..... 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swelfieh Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terranata Church Tel: 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.
Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 771751.
Amman International Church Tel. 685326.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel: 811295.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 823824, 654932.
Church of the Nazarene tel. 675691.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be warm and dry and winds will be easterly moderate. In Aqaba, *winds will be southerly moderate and* seas rough.

Min./Max. temp.

Amman ..... 20 /36
Aqaba ..... 27 / 42
Deserts ..... 20 /38
Jordan Valley ..... 24 / 40

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 34. Aqaba 41. Humidity readings: Amman 17 per cent, Aqaba 20 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Abdul Majeed Al Sha'er ... 791405
Dr. Arafat Al Ashhab 602507
Dr. Mahmoud Ameera 888883
Dr. Nidal Al Dableh 692625
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Ascna pharmacy 637055
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shneisani pharmacy 637660

IRBID:
Dr. Ahmad Abu Bakir ..... (—)
Al Sharaa' pharmacy 275825

ZARQA:
Dr. Samir Al Lawzi ..... (—)
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority ... 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn ... 644281/6
Akileh Maternity, J. Amn ... 642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malkna, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shneisani 664171/4
Shneisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Mussber Hospital 667222/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26
Army, Marka 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674155

ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital ..... (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital .. (09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital ..... (09)986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)990990

IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital .. (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275
Ibn Al Nafees Hospital ..... (02)247100

AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital .... (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

10:00 ..... Jeddah (RJ)
10:10 ..... Larnaca (RJ)
10:15 ..... Aqaba (RJ)
10:30 ..... Damascus (RJ)
10:30 ..... Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
14:50 ..... Frankfurt, Kopenhagen (RJ)
18:30 ..... New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
18:30 ..... Brussels, Paris (RJ)
18:55 ..... London (RJ)
19:00 ..... Madrid, Rome (RJ)
19:25 ..... Ankara, Istanbul (RJ)
19:30 ..... Athens (RJ)
20:00 ..... Cairo (RJ)
20:00 ..... Frankfurt (RJ)
20:15 ..... Berlin (RJ)
20:50 ..... Vienna (RJ)
21:00 ..... Rome (RJ)
04:00 ..... Jeddah (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

12:45 ..... Muscat, Bahrain (GF)
20:35 ..... Cairo (MS)
14:40 ..... Moscow (SU)
16:55 ..... Larnaca (CY)
20:35 ..... Beirut (ME)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

07:20 ..... Damascus (RJ)
08:00 ..... Aqaba (RJ)
09:30 ..... Berlin (RJ)
09:30 ..... Frankfurt (RJ)
11:20 ..... Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
12:00 ..... Rome (RJ)
12:00 ..... Vienna (RJ)
12:15 ..... Ankara, Istanbul (RJ)
12:30 ..... Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
13:10 ..... Athens (RJ)
14:00 ..... Cairo (RJ)
21:00 ..... Riyadh (RJ)
21:30 ..... Jeddah (RJ)
22:30 ..... Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
22:30 ..... New Delhi (RJ)
22:45 ..... Bangkok (RJ)
22:45 ..... Singapor, Jakarta (RJ)
23:45 ..... Sanaa (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

10:00 ..... Beirut, Rome (AZ)
13:30 ..... Bahrain (GF)
16:00 ..... Moscow (SU)
17:45 ..... Larnaca (CY)
21:35 ..... Cairo (MS)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple (red)	700/ 600
Banana	500 / 450
Banana (Mukammar)	550 / 500
Beans	500 / 250
Broad beans	350/ 250
Cabbage	120 / 80
Carrot	220/ 160
Cauliflower	110/ 80
Cucumbers (large)	100 / 50
Cucumbers (small)	100 / 50
Eggplant	160 / 70
Garlic (green)	320 / 250
Lemon	600 / 500
Marrow (large)	100 / 80
Marrow (small)	170 / 120
Onion (dry)	140 / 80
Onion (green)	150/ 100
Oranges	400 / 250
Peaches	720 / 620
Peas	350/ 250
Pepper (hot)	280 / 220
Pepper (sweet)	280 / 220
Potato	210 / 150
Radish	150/ 100
Sage	170 / 100
Tomato	100 / 80

Queen Noor joins ICPF

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor has accepted an invitation to join the International Commission on Peace and Food (ICPF), an international non-governmental organisation that focuses on promoting concerted international efforts to reduce military expenditure and redirect technical and financial resources into effective programmes to eliminate food shortages and increase world food production by environmentally sustainable practices, according to a statement from the Al Ma'wa Palace. Founded in 1989, the commission is comprised of concerned statesmen, Nobel laureates, and scientists and professionals from around the world.

Izzeddin Al Khatib Al Tamimi

Khatib increases aid to stranded pilgrims

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordanian authorities Saturday mobilised an effort to increase their assistance to Palestinians returning from this year's pilgrimage to Mecca and Medina who are facing problems resulting from Israel's refusal to facilitate their easy and quick crossing to the occupied territories.

The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs said it had ordered additional quantities of humanitarian assistance such as food and water to be delivered to the pilgrims, who are stranded near the King Hussein Bridge across the River Jordan.

Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Izzedin Al Khatib was reported to have visited the pilgrims city at the town of South Shuneh in the Jordan Valley region, nearby the crossing points to Israel. He ordered urgent help for its residents.

The Israelis, according to previous agreements, were to have allowed 2,500 travellers cross the King Hussein Bridge daily, but have reportedly sharply reduced the number this year to only 750 a day.

The pilgrims, together with the summer visitors to the West Bank and the Gaza Strip has created congestion at the bridges forcing the Jordanian authorities to issue permits to visitors. But according to both visitors and pilgrims, the Israeli authorities are worsening the situation by turning back large numbers of travellers.

Normally, the pilgrims are housed at the pilgrims' city and given the basic needs, but the minister had to order additional amounts of water, ice and food to be brought immediately to the pilgrims.

The Public Security Department (PSD) Friday urged Palestinian pilgrims to go to the King Hussein Bridge on Monday and Tuesday and where they will be given priority over all others crossing into the West Bank.

The minister met with the pilgrims and local officials and discussed facilities for the pilgrims' return, underlining the need for maintaining continued assistance to the hajjis.

In addition, Palestinians crossing into Jordan are complaining that they have been given only until July 20 to return home via the bridges.

The travellers mainly go to the occupied territories during the summer holidays to visit relatives and friends but they can only cross at the King Hussein Bridge because the Prince Mohammad Bridge is now only for trucks carrying agricultural produce to Jordan.

Art by Iraqi

AMMAN (J.T.) — An exhibition of paintings by Iraqi artist Mohyee Khalifeh will open Wednesday at Alia Art Gallery. The exhibition runs through July 2.

Kabariti says 'use laws to settle labour disputes'

AMMAN (Petra) — Labour Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabariti Saturday met with leaders of the Federation of Jordanian Labour Unions, stressing the need for settling labour disputes through legal measures. Mr. Kabariti met with Mr. Khaled Shreim, the federation's secretary-general, his deputy and a number of leaders of the labour movement in the country to discuss labour-related issues. He stressed the need for the unions to abide by Jordanian laws and to resolve issues in a democratic manner and through constructive dialogue.

The ministry of Labour strives to provide protection and care for Jordanian workers at home and abroad and hopes it will succeed in maintaining employment by means possibly; said the minister at the meeting.

Mr. Kabariti urged the federation to start preparing for a pan-Arab labour conference due to be organised in Amman in March 1993 to discuss labour-related issues. The unionists told the minister that they were drawing up new bylaws to unify labour union regulations. They demanded that the Social Security Corporation (SSC) dispatch a number of unionists on annual scholarships abroad. The minister expressed his readiness to facilitate such a request.

Last month, the minister announced that the new law on labour had been formalised and that it had been submitted to the government, which will refer it later to the Lower House of parliament where it will be debated.

Abdul Karim Al Kabariti

In another development related to workers road, the minister Saturday said during the International Labour Organisation (ILO) meeting in Geneva that he met with the general-secretary of a U.N. committee on compensation to discuss steps taken to ensure appropriate compensation for Jordanian expatriates evicted from Kuwait during the Gulf crisis.

The expatriates have been filling and submitting forms for compensation to the ministry through the post offices in Jordan.

Once collected, the forms will be channelled to the United Nations through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Amman.

Jordan-Syria session to meet urban needs

AMMAN (J.T.) — A joint Jordanian-Syrian workshop opened a four-day session in Amman Saturday to discuss ways of improving services to poor districts and outlying areas of major cities in both countries.

Ministry of Public Works' officials said that the workshop attended by delegates concerned with construction and city planning, will review 17 papers on measures that deal with homes and other buildings randomly set up around cities.

The emergence of districts around Arab capitals and large cities with low-level public and municipal services was caused by the continued migration of people from rural to urban areas for socio-economic reasons and because of the forced migration of Arabs from the occupied Arab territories. Zionist aggression, said the Minister of Public Works and Housing, Saad Hayel Srour, in a keynot address at the opening session.

The minister referred to Jordan's endeavours to deal with this chronic issue by nothing that the Kingdom has created the Housing and Urban Development Corporation, which he said can provide housing needs, particularly for low and limited income groups.

The head of the Syrian side, Mr. Irfan Barad'i, described the joint session as an embodiment of the will of the Jordanian and Syrian leadership to enhance solidarity among Arab states and to coordinate joint Arab action.

Mr. Barad'i who is also the Syrian Deputy Minister of Housing, said that Arab unity is the objective of all Arab countries. He said the coordination and cooperation needed to achieve unity can come through close ties among Arabs at the highest levels.

Housing and Urban Development Corporation Director Yousef Hiyasat addressed the opening session, noting that his office sponsored the construction of 90 housing estates of thousands of housing units in Jordan so far, and was catering to the needs of a growing population by building other housing projects and by settling bedouin tribes living in outlying regions and semi-desert areas.

He said the JD 250 million has already been spent on such projects and plans are underway to set up 2,000 additional housing units annually.

Conference to discuss renewable energy sources

AMMAN (J.T.) — An international conference on renewable energy, organised by the University of Jordan in cooperation with the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), is to open at the university's Mechanical Engineering Faculty Monday.

Sixty-six research papers will be reviewed by the participants in the three-day conference which will deal with energy from solar power and its applications, wind power, the utilisation of organic gas and renewable sources of energy, according to a statement by the faculty here Saturday.

Participants will come from Jordan, Iraq, Bahrain, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Egypt, Sudan, Libya, India, Pakistan, Slovenia, Bulgaria and Poland, along with various sectors concerned with energy affairs.

According to the announcement, the conference aims to enable the various delegates to exchange expertise on renewable energy and to help Jordanian technicians and experts acquaint themselves with the latest trends in energy technique.

The U.N. conference marks the second gathering to be held in Amman since April this year when matters related to the commercialisation of solar and wind energy technologies were discussed through 44 working papers presented to delegates and reviewed. The papers dealt with wind and solar power along with solar thermal applications and photovoltaic technologies.

In regards to the April conference, organised by the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) in cooperation with the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ), the delegates from Jordan and 23 other countries toured a number of solar energy projects in the Kingdom.

Jordan Valley farmer tills the soil, eager to make a profit

Jordan valley farmers demand government support, strategies

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan Valley Farmers Association (JVFA) is demanding the government to provide support and assistance to the farmers of Jordan to help them work their land and contribute towards ensuring the security of food in the Kingdom.

The lack of a national agricultural strategy, caused by the continual changes in the management of the agricultural sector at the public level has led to the accumulation of agricultural problems, said Mr. Mohammad Tawil, the JVFA federation chairman.

He told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, in an interview Saturday that the farmers face problems related to agricultural inputs, marketing, water distribution, credits, lack of proper services and guidance to the farmers of the country. Referring to the inputs, he said that modern agriculture requires modern equipment and fertilisers, high quality seeds and pesticides — all of which are very expensive because they are imported and marketed by the private sector.

The JVFA established in 1974, can not afford to soaring costs of inputs needed to increase production, said Mr. Tawil.

In reference to marketing, Mr. Tawil said that the high cost of production makes marketing difficult. To solve this problem and find markets for surplus produce, a national marketing strategy is badly needed to encourage local farmers to pursue their efforts, demanded Mr. Tawil.

He said that packaging is also a problem for farmers who find it difficult to pay the high cost of crates and boxes for transporting cucumbers, tomatoes, eggplants and marrows to the market in Jordan and abroad. Indeed, he said, sometimes farmers find the cost of these boxes accounting more than half the price of the produce they hope to sell, Mr. Tawil added.

Mr. Tawil demanded that the government step in and control the process of importing agricultural produce in a bid to protect local products and to open new markets for Jordanian crops abroad.

Mr. Tawil demanded that the farmers be protected through agricultural insurance which can provide for losses due to frost and floods, like those that destroyed vast farmlands this past winter.

He called on the government to establish a public organisation to take charge of this project and to deal with questions, such as surpluses that do not find their way to foreign markets, thus bringing down the prices and hurting farmers.

Furthermore, Mr. Tawil said that the government should provide annual assistance to the JVFA through soft loans and by setting up processing plants to absorb surplus produce. Earlier this month, the government announced the formation of a ministerial task force to deal with the problems of the agricultural sector and to help find solutions.

The task force came in the wake of a recent complaint from farmers and vegetable growers about the supply of tomatoes in the local market, causing a sharp fall in prices.

In an initial step to help farmers, the government raised to JD 60, up from JD 50 a tonne of tomatoes sent to the process plants, but local market prices remained low.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Industrial waste workshop opens Monday

AMMAN (Petra) — A workshop on the treatment of dangerous industrial waste will open in Amman Monday. The four-day workshop, which is organised by the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment in cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme and the Paris-based Environment and Indsutry Centre, will discuss ways to treat, transport and store toxic waste and other related issues. In addition to Jordan, representatives of Iraq, Bahrain, Qatar, Oman, Syria, Yemen, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Mozambique and Turkey will participate in the workshop.

28 people killed by cars in May

AMMAN (Petra) — Twenty-eight people were killed and 706 others injured in 1,551 car accidents in May, according to a report released by the traffic department Saturday. The report said the number of accidents in May dropped by 212, compared to the month before when the number of those killed dropped by 11, and the number of those injured dropped by 199. It said that 843 of the total number of accidents occurred in the Amman area, 216 in Zarqa, 213 in Irbid, 58 in Balqa, 48 in Aqaba, 44 in Mafraq, 39 in Karak, 26 in the Badia region, 22 in Maan, and 11 in Tafileh.

Arabiyat to review House achievements

AMMAN (Petra) — Lower House of Parliament Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat will held a press conference Monday at the parliament building. Dr. Arabiyat will review the achievements of the House in the third ordinary session and the agenda of the House's extraordinary session which will start today (Sunday).

Jordan will participate in WHO health services meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will participate in a regional meeting organised by the World Health Organisation (WHO) that will open in Cairo Monday. The meeting will focus on ways to enhance cooperation in research on health services and systems between the Ministries of Health and Faculties of Medicine in countries in the Mediterranean region. The meeting will also discuss the role of universities in this regard and will review related experiments in other countries. Jordan will be represented at the meeting by Ministry of Health Secretary-General Abbas Amin and Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) Vice-President Saad Hijazi.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

☆ Exhibition of paintings by Patrice Pain at the French Cultural Centre.

☆ Exhibition of paintings by Mohammad Al Jaloos at Baladna Art Gallery.

☆ Art exhibition by Samer Obeidat at the Royal Cultural Centre — opening ceremony at 5 p.m.

Films to show on Palestinians

AMMAN (J.T.) — In cooperation with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) in Amman, the Cinema Committee of Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation presents new documentary films about Palestinians and their situation in the refugee camp, villages and cities in the occupied territories and the diaspora according to foundation fax.

The film comes on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the six-day war and the tenth anniversary of the Isareli invasion of Lebanon in 1982. It takes place at Scientific Cultural Centre of Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, located on the fifth floor of the Arab Jordan Investment Bank, Shemeisani, on Tuesday 23, June, 1992 at 6:30 p.m.

Although heroes of Lebanese civil war, women have little glory

By Hana Salah
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Lebanese women during the country's 15-year civil war had to endure most of the war's insanity, while at the same time trying to keep their children sane, according to Dr. Ilhan Kallab, professor of architecture and Middle Eastern art at the B.U.C. during her lecture Tuesday at the Abdul Hamid Shoman Centre. Yet, Lebanese literature still portrays women as only housewives while in reality, they were the heroes of the Lebanese civil war.

Unlike men who went to war, "women maintained stability at home and teaching at schools." Yet after a one year in depth study of children's school books Dr. Kallab notes that "women are hardly mentioned."

In the lecture entitled "Lebanese Women between Image and Reality," professor Kallab reviewed the roles of Lebanese women before, during and after the civil war that started in 1975 and ended in 1991.

Before the war, the beginning of the Lebanese women's movement was felt in many areas, she said. "The illiteracy rate was at an all time low, women were getting college educations and women were beginning to make up a considerable part of the workforce."

During the war, women became heroes. In a protest against a "senseless" war between families, women chose not to carry arms. Instead, they worked to keep their families together.

At home, the mother was a psychologist: she would try to "calm children who would not know if they would be alive from one minute to the next." She would also try to explain the war to her children so they would not look to drugs as a solution, said Dr. Kallab.

Outside the home, women "risked their lives" to get to work to put bread on the table.

Finally, women were the "peacemakers of the war." Women would organize anti-war demonstrations. "One memory that sticks out in my mind is when women and children from both sides joined together in the street and sang peaceful songs all night," recalls Dr. Kallab.

After the war, despite women's invaluable role during the fighting, "it is as if the women's movement has taken a step backwards," expressed Dr. Kallab: there is only one woman in the parliament, there is a high illiteracy rate among women and there is no sign of change in women's legal rights.

A Lebanese mother kneels and prays during the civil war

But how does Dr. Kallab expect women to regain their rights? "Through economic reform. And, through this reform I believe we will achieve political stability. This stability will hopefully put more women in political offices," she states.

Salem buried

AMMAN (J.T.) — Former Minister of Finance and Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Governor Khalil Salem was buried Saturday at his birthplace near Irbid. His funeral was attended by the Irbid Governor, who was delegated by His Majesty King Hussein, members of the government and Parliament, tribal chieftains and large crowds of people. Mr. Salem passed away Friday at Al Hussein Medical Centre.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Saturday visited the Salem family in Al Husn town near Irbid to offer condolences over the death of Khalil Salem.

Exhibition of art opens

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Wijdan Ali opened Saturday at Baladna Art Gallery an art exhibition by artist Mohammad Al Jaloos.

The exhibition, entitled "Small Paintings," will continue until July 19. A total of 165 art works by Mr. Jaloos are on display at the exhibition.

JORDAN ATTENDS BERLIN FAIR — Jordan was among 76 countries taking part in the 38th import fair in Berlin entitled "Partners of Progress" which concluded on June 13, 1992. Various types of knit-wear, ready-made clothes and handicrafts were on display for a week at the Berlin exhibition grounds. A total of 1,202 exhibitors displayed a wide range of products, with emphasis on textiles, leather, home furnishings and gifts. It occupied an overall area of 24,948m² (1991: 29,628m²), and the many exhibitors who regularly attend from developing countries were joined by 112 companies from Central and Eastern Europe. The Import Fair Berlin also serves as a forum for discussions about world trade and includes an extensive programme of seminars and workshops, featuring leading organisations and individuals from the fields of trade and development policy.

Under The Patronage
Of His Excellency
The Minister Of Tourism & Archaeology
with the participation of:
☆ Kamal Tourism Office ☆ Atlal Art Services
☆ Jordanian Theatre Centre
A Night That Will Not Be Forgotten

and for the first time in Jordan we invite you to participate in
"JORDAN BY NIGHT"
on the pool side of
The Jordan Intercontinental Hotel
start on 21/6/1992 at seven o'clock
The programme consists of:
☆ Photographic pictures & slides of all Jordanian archaeological sites in different languages
☆ Book show for tourism & archaeology
☆ Folklore dance & fashion show
A- Marriage ceremonies
B. Harvesting season
C. Music played on rababa & oud
D. Folklore dinner party included
Tickets sold at:
Jordan Intercontinental Hotel
JD 20 single/JD 40 per couple

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975

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Good news, bad news

THE GOOD news is that the United States of America has not decided to suspend its financial aid to Jordan despite reports that the U.S. administration is not very happy with Jordan's "compliance" with the U.N.-imposed regime of sanctions against Iraq. The bad news is that the Bush administration has not yet released economic assistance to Jordan due in 1992, despite the fact that Congress has lifted restrictions on it and the fact that the administration is fully aware of the extreme difficulties that the Kingdom is facing in complying with those sanctions. Washington may also be aware that Amman is observing U.N. resolution even though the economic sanctions imposed against Iraq have outlived their legitimate justification and have more or less become a food weapon against the very survival of the Iraqi people.

Is it possible that the U.S. simply wants more from Jordan, and will not be satisfied until Jordan plays an active part in the effort to bring down the Iraqi regime, and install the off-shore opposition in power in Baghdad? Or is it for internal political consumption that the administration is keeping up the pressure against Jordan?

Jordan, the Americans of all people should know, is not willing nor able to undertake such job as removing the Iraqi regime from power and if that is the only reason why the Bush administration finds it necessary to punish the Jordanian people, then so be it. Otherwise, our long friendship with the U.S. should be allowed to speak for itself.

At one time we thought that Jordan, in the aftermath of the Gulf war, would be shielded from reprisal measures especially by the West not only because it accepted and complied with international law and all U.N. resolutions, and not only because of its political reforms and the democratisation process but also because of its constructive role in the American-led peace process. But the rising pressures of recent times suggest that legitimacy, democracy, human rights and peace do not count for much in the eyes of the leaders of the new world order.

It would indeed be a pity for any democratic country, especially if it is a superpower, to ally itself to authoritative, non-democratic regimes, merely on the strength of past form, and strike against a peace-loving, budding democracy just because it cannot afford to be or act suicidal in the face of some tough challenges.

Arabic Press Commentaries

JORDANIAN dailies on Saturday attacked Israel for its decision to try members of the Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations for their meeting with PLO leader Yasser Arafat and other PLO members in Amman. Al Ra'i said that the Israeli propaganda has been presenting the meeting as a major sin committed by the leading members of the negotiating team. The Israelis are trying to interpret the meeting in Amman as the main Middle East issue simply because they are intent on aborting the peace process and undermining any move to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict, said the daily. It said that the Israelis could also decide at this stage to pull out from the peace process altogether, blaming the failure on the Palestinians for their meetings with the PLO for consultations. It is high time for the co-sponsors of the peace negotiations to step in and stop all such Israeli practices and prevent the Israeli government from undermining the peace process by trying or detaining the Palestinian negotiators, called the paper. It said that a trial of the Palestinian delegation members was coupled with continued Israeli atrocities against the Palestinians in the occupied Arab territories. The paper said that the Palestinian delegation has all the right to talk with the PLO leadership as it is an integral part of the Palestinian people and holds views about the negotiations that must be heard by the negotiators. The paper said that the delegation members should not be allowed by the world community to disrupt all the peace process that might bring peace to the Middle East.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily discussed the plight of the expatriates returning to settle here but finding it extremely difficult to do so in view of the soaring rates of house rents. The expatriates were forced out of the Gulf and should be helped rather than forced to pay all their savings in rent, said Nazih. The writer said that immediately after the return of the expatriates the landlords and owners of homes raised by 300 per cent the rent, trying to exploit the situation and making as much profit from their homes as possible, with the government turning blind eye on what has been happening. The writer also noted that increasing the rent in such a greedy manner is a violation of the Jordanian laws, and such a development can bring about instability in the structure paving the ground for crimes to be committed and social ills to increase. Such a situation can by no means be condoned or allowed to prevail since it is bound to cause deep rifts in society and cause more headaches for the government itself, said Nazih. The writer said that as the government realises the facts about the situation, it must act speedily to come to the help of the expatriates and stop the greed of the landlords, as, by doing so, it can safeguard their interests and protect the Jordanian society from imbalances and criminal actions.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Al Fanek

Capital flight reversed

Several months ago I ventured to claim that the Jordanian capital, which has been spirited out, during the rough times, since 1988, was returning to the country during 1991 at the average rate of $1 million per day.

Some readers thought at the time that this statement was unfounded or at least exaggerated. They have been reasons to expect bad news such as capital flight. The mere talk about a return of capital was met with smiles and raised eyebrows.

Solid evidence of the fact was not available and circumstantial evidence was not convincing. So we had to wait for the balance of payments for 1991, published by the Central Bank.

In simple words, the balance of payments issued by the Central Bank two weeks ago showed that the current account reflected a surplus of JD 280 million, while the capital account posted a surplus of JD 184 million, thus the overall balance of payments was in surplus of JD 464 million calculated on cash basis, i.e., ignoring interest and principal of external debt if it were not actually paid in cash during the year.

Under such circumstances, the net foreign exchange position of the banking sector should have improved by a similar amount. But the real net improvement, as reflected in changes of balances of assets and liabilities in foreign currencies, was in the neighbourhood of JD 753 million.

There was the equivalent of JD 289 million in foreign exchange which was received in the country one way or another but was not accounted for the balance of payments because it was not registered as formal transactions. This was classified by the balance of payments as "errors and ommissions." In fact, it represents a returned capital, or a capital flight in reverse. Errors and ommissions in compiling of imports and exports of goods and services could not exceed JD 40 million. The remaining JD 250 million or $368 million could be nothing but the informal flow back of capital.

This estimate is further confirmed by dividing the results of the balance of payments for 1991 into quarters, to find that around $60 million vanished during the first quarter of the year, an expected and understandable outcome in this period which coincided with the uncertainty of the Gulf war. However, the "errors and omissions" item shifted to the credit side in an equal amount in the second quarter. This means that what fled out in the first quarter returned in the second. That was the "hot money" which is known to move back and forth nervously with changing circumstances and shifting expectations.

The condensed return of capital started in the third quarter of 1991 in a big way. At that time, it became obvious that Jordan weathered the crisis, recovered its economic stability, and was getting ready for a full scale recovery accompanied by adjustment and reform. The trend continued during the fourth quarter but at slower pace. Thus, the return of capital in the second half of 1991 was taking place at an average of $2 million a day. The claim that capital was coming back at $1 million a day all through the past year became a proven truth.

Most of the returning capital is owned by Jordanian citizens who borrowed from local banks in Jordanian dinars. Those businessmen found themselves in an unnecessary losing situation. The local banks were charging them 11 per cent per annum as interest on their JD credit facilities, while foreign banks were paying them around 3.5 per cent per annum as interest on their dollar deposits. They did not hesitate too long before deciding to retrieve their off-shore dollars and use them to repay their domestic loans. The personal self-interest and the national interest coincided in good times while it went in opposite directions in rough times, and no wonder: capital is easily intimidated, it always seeks safety.

Rabin ties his own hands

By Peretz Kidron

WEST JERUSALEM — Israel's election campaign is entering its decisive final days on a strangely distant and alienated note. Israelis are renowned for the passion of their political convictions, and previous campaigns were noisy, sweaty affairs whose no-holds-barred tone was set in turbulent mass rallies where the rhetoric of the orators evoked a fervent, occasionally violent, response from their audiences.

However, the 1992 campaign has hither to failed to fire such levels of popular involvement; indeed, the electorate is displaying equanimity, if not outright indifference. True, political leaders still tour the country to address public meetings, but these tend to be intimate and low-key, directed at energising the party rank-and- file, rather than winning over voters at large.

The latter are the targets of a calculated packaging-and-promotion bonanza conducted by public relations professionals. Every party has hired firms of commercial advertising experts promptly became principal arbiters of the tone and substance of its campaign; inevitably they are the main focus, with interest hinging upon their proficiency.

Broadcasting time is allocated by strict rules, each slate receiving a basic allotment of ten minutes, and an additional three for each member of the outgoing Knesset. This gives the major parties an enormous advantage, Labour and Likud each receiving over two hours of screen time.

If television propaganda leaves Israelis cold, intermittent publication of opinion polls still appeals to their sporting instincts by offering a subject for wagers. Fluctuations from poll to poll are closely noted and analysed with heated debate about the significance of the slightest swing.

The pollsters continue to predict a substantial Labour margin over Likud; however, as foreseen, disgruntled Likud supporters hitherto listed as "undecided" have begun — albeit reluctantly — to rally to the colours, somewhat improving their party's showing. But although each of the major parties is eager to outdo its rival, the outcome of the election — and the composition of the new government — depends less upon the individual showing of either Likud or Labour than upon the relative success of the respective blocs: Likud plus its associate lists, versus Labour and its allies. While there are marked differences between the predictions of the various pollsters, none forecasts a clear-cut victory for either bloc.

Rabin spurns the Arabs

Much interest continues to focus upon Labour. Reinvigorated with an apparent return of belief in itself, the party is putting on a hard-hitting campaign. Leadership and rank-and-file alike exude a self-assurance they have long lacked; while careful to avoid the over-confidence which preceded their downfall in recent campaigns, the party's leaders clearly look fowards to the first Labour-led government since 1977. Having long laboured under the handicap of a generally disliked leader, Shimon Peres, their optimism stems largely from the popularity of their new front runner, Yitzhak Rabin, whose personality has been made the lynchpin of the party campaign.

But while the Labour faithful foster hopes of restoration to the traditional rule of "party of government," few appear to have noticed that those hopes were effectively dashed by the selfsame leader who had raised them. The truth came out at what was planned as a highlight of the party's campaign. Always strongly represented in the senior military command, Labour has gone out of its way to highlight the prestigious support of distinguished ex-officers; when Likud propaganda played down Mr. Rabin's role as architect of the 1967 war victory, Labour induced virtually the entire 1967 high command to sign an advertisement commending his leadership. Going on to exploit the same theme, Labour organised a closed "prestige" rally attended by 1,000 prominent personages, including no fewer than 17 former generals and scores of other retired senior officers who turned out to voice their endorsement of Mr. Rabin as prime minister.

But what was designed as a publicity exercise served Mr. Rabin as a sounding board for a major policy statement. Evidently aware that the generals incline to the party's hawkish wing, the Labour leader seized on the opportunity for a public undertaking that he "obviously" should not form a coalition "with the Democratic Front, Darawsheh and Miari" i.e. those parties exclusively or mainly Arab-supported. However, Mr. Rabin hastened to concede that he would welcome those parties' adherence to a "blocking bloc" which would join Labour and its allies of the leftist Meretz list in foiling the formation of a Likud government.

A "national unity" coalition?

By spurning the Arab parties, Mr. Rabin effectively relinquished the notion of a Labour-led government. Placing his cards on the table, the Labour leader confirmed growing suspicions that his post-electoral strategy is ultimately aimed at reviving the "national unity" coalition whereby Labour shared power with Likud in the late '80s. Indeed, his pledge left no other options open. The scenarios are limited — and none would banish Likud to the opposition.

Under Labour's "worst-case" scenario — if Likud and its allies of the far right and religious parties win 61 seats — Labour will almost certainly be excluded from power, unless it consented to join on Likud terms. However, even if a majority of Knesset seats are controlled by the "blocking bloc" — Labour, Meretz and the Arab parties — that would not guarantee a Labour-led government. True, in the first stage, a Likud government would be unable to gain parliamentary approval. In such an event, Mr. Rabin would make an attempt at forming an administration. But he would have little chance of achieving a parliamentary majority: having tied his own hands by counting out the Arab parties as potential coalition partners, Mr. Rabin could rely exclusively upon the votes of Labour and Meretz — probably no more than 55.

At this stage of the game, Labour may be expected to launch vigorous overtures in a bid to win over some of the religious factions. Success in such an endeavour is dubious. Having long played cat-and-mouse with the two major parties, the religious factions are now committed exclusively to a coalition with Likud. Under certain circumstances, some religious groups could be persuaded — by suitable Labour concessions such as promises of religious-inspired legislation or enlarged grants to Orthodox institutions — to desert the Likud bloc. But if such a feat is feasible, Mr. Rabin is hardly the man to pull it off: he makes no secret of his contempt and revulsion towards religious orthodoxy and its political representatives (observers recall that his mid-'70s stint as prime minister came to an abrupt end when he brashly dismissed his religious coalition partners).

At this stage of the post-electoral stand-off the outlook is stalemate with neither of the major blocs capable of putting together a Knesset majority. Without an effective government, the country would find itself in a painful and apparently irresolvable crisis, sparking a public outcry. As the scenario unfolds, this would be Mr. Rabin's cue to display his stature as national leader and statement by inviting his Likud adversaries to join him in a "national unity" coalition. Likud leaders would welcome the offer, and haggling would commence. Israel would revert to a "government of national paralysis." Labour hopes of regaining an exclusive grasp on the reins of power would be postponed.

Having achieved his political objective by structuring his "blocking bloc" on the votes of the Arab parties, Mr. Rabin would consign them to the political wilderness.

Calculated racism

The above scenario, with its clear reflection of Labour's inherent anti-Arab prejudice, was obliquely foreshadowed in the party's election propaganda following the Bat Yam disorders. When a 15-year-old girl was murdered by a Gaza Arab, the Tel Aviv suburb erupted into a week of enraged protests and anti-Arab rioting.

During previous election campaigns, similar events had a major impact as public opinion inflamed by anti-Arab rhetoric, turned its back on "soft" Labour to swing towards Likud and the hardline parties of the far right. Determined not to be caught out again, Labour hastened to respond to the Bat Yam events by a scare campaign condemning the Likud government for "its failure to guarantee the physical safety of Israel's citizens."

Briefly departing from its tactic of ignoring the issue of the occupied territories, Labour attacked Likud's long-term plans for an ultimate annexation that would "bring Gaza to Tel Aviv," reinforcing the message with ominous background music from horror movies. In its radio propaganda, Labour had an actor with an affected Arab accent "praise" Likud plans for annexation which would ultimately grant the Arabs a decisive voice in Israel's future. Unusually quick off the mark, Labour contrived to harness "the Arab threat" to its electoral chariot. Labour's tactic can perhaps be vindicated as a sensible political precaution. But as an exercise in calculated racism, Labour's post-Bat Yam broadcasts made its Likud rivals look like a model of decency and virtue — Middle East International.

World community faces no-win situation in Yugoslavia

By Patrick Worsnip
Reuter

LONDON — The on-again, off-again U.N. plan to open Sarajevo airport cannot disguise the painful dilemma the outside world may face in Yugoslavia: a military intervention that could cost many lives, or failure to stop the civil war.

Friday's news from the besieged Bosnian capital was better: A creaky ceasefire agreed on Monday appeared to be back in force, raising hopes that the United Nations might manage next week to reopen the airport and bring supplies to the population.

Although the U.N. is making headway, it is taking no risks. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali has said he wants to see if the ceasefire holds before asking Security Council members to authorise deployment of 1,100 peacekeeping troops to Sarajevo.

For the city's 300,000 inhabitants, starved and bombarded by Serbian irregulars from the surrounding hills, such delays can seem like a recipe for ensuring the truce collapses.

"It's this bureaucracy with the U.N.," complained Paul Tvrtkovic, a London-based spokesman for the Bosnian government. "The machinery is very slow. Maybe it's because Boutros Ghali is new in the job."

But Western diplomats say the world body has every reason for caution before committing forces to a large-scale peacekeeping operation in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"If complete responsibility was given to the local U.N. commanders, they could move a lot faster," one said.

"But at the moment every government with a lot of forces there wants to be sure it's not sending them into a death-trap. They're not going to want to devolve the final decision to the commanders."

Questions bothering defence ministries in countries contributing troops include what the precise objectives of peacekeeping forces would be, where their line of retreat would run and whether they had adequate weaponry, diplomats said.

They said the U.N. faced a choice between the present cautious approach, with its constant setbacks and failures, and embarking on a massive intervention that could escalate into a Gulf war-style conflict.

"Unfortunately, there doesn't seem to be a half-way house. If there was, I'm sure they'd jump at it," one said.

So far, the major powers have drawn a strict line between peacekeeping — supervising a truce already agreed between the combatants — and peace-making — wading in with guns blazing to stamp out the conflict, something they will not yet contemplate.

Last Monday, Bosnian Foreign Minister Haris Silajdzic asked the Security Council to authorise the use of air power to secure the opening of Sarajevo airport, to silence Serb guns and to prevent attacks by warplanes based in Serbia.

The idea has appealed to some Western analysts, too.

"There is a straightforward way to apply force of the kind that alone will persuade (Serbian President Slobodan) Milosevic and his men to stop their kiling," New York Times commentator Anthony Lewis wrote this week.

"That is for planes to bomb the positions in the hills around Sarajevo from which Serbian gunners have been pounding the city."

But other analysts say it is not that simple, and that ground forces would inevitably be required. Some Western military experts believe 20-30,000 men might be needed to secure Sarajevo alone, let alone the rest of Bosnia.

No one doubts that the West can mount a vast military campaign if it wants to. Last year it sent hundreds of thousands of men into battle to drive Iraqi forces out of Kuwait.

But in the Gulf war, the West had a clear enemy — Iraq —, a clear aim — to liberate Kuwait —, a clear self-interest — oil —, and a clear financial backer — Saudi Arabia.

None of these things exist in Yugoslavia. While most Western governments hold the Serbs largely responsible, they think the Croats and the Bosnian Muslims are not blameless either, and they fear that going to war could be bloody and protracted.

U.S. President George Bush, engaged in a difficult reelection campaign, stated bluntly in January: "I don't want to send young men into a war where I can't see that they're going to prevail and prevail rapidly."

Washington's allies would probably concur with that. And yet the alternative may be to see thousands more Yugoslavs killed as the war spirals out of control in the heart of Europe.

Lord Carrington, chairman of an European Community Peace Conference on Yugoslavia, warned the leaders of the feuding republics on Friday they could face "all-out war."

LETTERS

Setting the record straight

To the Editor:

In reference to a news item which appeared in the Jordan Times of May 25, 1992, headlined "Indian diplomat freed after torture in Pakistan," I would like to mention the following points:

— The description of Mittal incident in the news item is factually inaccurate.

— As a matter of fact Mittal was apprehended on May, 24, 1992 by Pakistan Security officials while he was receiving highly sensitive classified documents. He was released after his identity was established. However, due to his undesirable activities, Mittal could not be allowed to continue to work in Pakistan.

— The subsequent action of the Indian government, expelling two Pakistan counsellors from New Delhi, was retaliatory in nature and regrettable. Similarly, the sudden postponement by India of scheduled talks between the foreign secretaries of the two countries was regrettable as these talks were intended to discuss important issues and prepare the ground for improved bilateral relations.

— For its part, Pakistan has consistently refrained from resorting to retaliatory measures in response to provocative and uncalled for actions by India against its diplomats in New Delhi.

Mohammad Waheedul Hassan,
Charge d'Affaires (a.i.)
Embassy of Pakistan,
P.O. Box 1232,
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

House begins session today

(Continued from page 1)

six other independent Islamists in the House.

The 16-member National Bloc, which includes liberal and traditional deputies, is likely to oppose many of the amendments that the Law Committee has proposed. "We prefer the government's version of the law to that of our Law Committee's version," Maan Deputy and spokesman for the National Bloc Suleiman Arar said Saturday.

The head of the law committee, Hussein Mjalli stressed that the constitutional right to form political parties as stated in Article 16 of the Constitution should be safeguarded by the law. "Our main aim should be to safeguard the rights that the constitution gave us," said Mr. Mjalli. "The right to form political parties is our constitutional right and our aim as deputies should be to create a mechanism that would safeguard this and other rights."

'Super-C' wave worries U.S.

(Continued from page 1)

in the U.S. for many years without detection until last year."

"Both the Iranian and Israeli creations were of excellent quality, prompting many central banks to acquire special inspection equipment," added the dealer.

Ironically, the new batch of $100 counterfeit notes hit the local market amid reports that the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) was spearheading the smuggling of forged Iraqi dinars as well as limited quantities of counterfeit American dollars into Iraq in a bid to further strangulate the war-ravaged Iraqi economy and help the effort to topple President Saddam.

The huge infusion of forged dinars has led to hyper-inflation in Iraq and to the erosion of Iraqis' confidence in their own currency. The government has adopted a series of tough action, including the withdrawal of 100-dinar notes and instituting stiff penalities for those found involved in either producing or distributfing counterfeit.

"The fake currency has contributed to Iraq's severe inflation problem, which is aggravated by the fact that the Iraqi government is printing money at uncontrolled speed to pay inflated salaries and cover the costs of reconstruction," the New York Times reported on May 27.

The Times quoted a CIA spokesman as declining comment on whether the agency was heading the smuggling operation. "As a matter of policy, we don't comment on such allegations," the spokesman was quoted as saying. (American law bans any official connivance with the distribution or priming of counterfeit currency. "So is any effort to topple a foreign government, but, judging by the way they are going about the anti-Saddam campaign, the CIA does not seem to be bothered by the law," commented a political observer).

According to the New York Times report, which quoted unidentified Arab and Western officials, Saudi Arabia, Iran and Israel in addition to "Western countries" are involved in the "separate counterfeiting operations" in Iraqi currency.

It also suggested that the origins of the forgeries could be easily identified, whether from Saudi Arabia, Iran or Israel, by judging the quality of the notes.

Iraq has accused the U.S. of dropping forged dinars from helicopters to the southern marshlands where Shiites have take refuge after a failed rebellion in March last year and Saudi Arabia and Iran of sending counterfeit currency into the country to destabilise the regime through economic warfare.

According to the New York Times report, fake dinar notes are smuggled into Iraq across the Jordanian, Saudi Turkish and Iranian borders.

The report quoted a Saudi official as confirming that "all borders are being used," and a Jordanian official as saying that Jordan "does not approve of it, but we can do little to stop it."

The dumping campaign was apparently intensified after the U.S. administration reportedly authorised full-fledged covert operations against the Baghdad government early this year; and "Super-C" notes surfaced in Jordan shortly afterwards.

"It is as if the Americans are getting a dose of their own medicine," commented an executive at a five-star hotel in Amman who boasts of his "own means" to detect counterfeit currency. "Except this time the quality of the return medicine appears to be far better."

Kuwait jails four Jordanians

(Continued from page 1)

The four men may appeal to a higher court if they feel that legal rules were violated during their trials.

Mr. Khalili told the three civilian judges that a senior Iraqi official forced him to work in the newspaper. He worked as an editor at the government-run Kuwait News Agency before the Aug. 2, 1990, invasion.

Mr. Zahran said he was forced to work at Al Nida as a copy boy, because Iraqi officers threatened to confiscate his passport.

Mr. Mousa, who was appointed managing editor, said he had no role in what was published in the paper because the material came from Baghdad or was prepared by Iraqis.

The daily always carried a coloured picture of Saddam Hussein and its articles were devoted lambasting Kuwait's Al Sabah ruling family.

It referred to the emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, as Croesus, the Biblical figure of legendary wealth. A profile of King Fahd of Saudi Arabia said he wrote love poems to former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

Palestinians continue talks

(Continued from page 1)

flexibility and commitment to the peace process," said Mr. Sha'ath.

"The PLO has benefited and advanced the peace process and has been able to protect the Palestinian delegation and to give it its proper legitimacy and, that, I think is what we should be concerned with rather than the charade about who meets whom at what time," he said.

In Washington, State Department deputy spokesman Richard Boucher said Friday:

"We've repeatedly stated that the PLO is not part of the peace process that we have helped construct, and we're thus troubled by the meeting and we have conveyed our concerns to the Palestinians"

The deputy spokesman noted that the State Department since April 8 has "purposely avoided commenting on many issues related to the Middle East, including some that are very important." He said he would comment only briefly on the Amman meeting and would "stick to our position of not getting into a discussion of such issues."

Five weeks ago, spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said the department would not comment, except in limited instances, on the Middle East while the negotiations were underway and "particularly in the midst of a heated political campaign in Israel." The Israeli elections will be held June 23.

Israeli Police Minister Ronnie Milo has said that the Palestinians would be detained upon their return to the occupied territories.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir called the Palestinians' action a provocation and said "steps will be taken" against them. But he did not specify whether they would be arrested.

For the first time publicly, Mr. Arafat presided a meeting Thursday of his aides with members of the Palestinian delegation to Middle East peace talks.

The move was the first public declaration of contacts between the PLO and the Palestinian team, which consists of representatives from the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Dr. Ashrawi Friday described the Israeli position as "entirely without legitimacy and very transparently ridiculous because no body has the right to prevent the Palestinians or any other people from meeting their political leadership."

"I am not afraid of going back," she told reporters. "It is my right to go back to my home, in so much as it is our right to speak to our leadership and to live freely and not under occupation."

Peaceful parenting — making conflict resolution skills work at home

By Gail Crouch

Conflict resolution with children may not be as earth-shaking as corporate takeovers or civil wars, but interest-personal conflicts are microcosms of the global kind, and the leaders of tomorrow are learning how to deal with conflict as children today.

Children learn by watching and imitating adults around them. How my husband and I argue now is quite different from the way we argued before we had children — we are so aware of those little eyes turned towards us. Now and then the arguments become heated and a few verbal punches are thrown. The world is not a perfect place, and children will learn this, too. But when we can talk things out and come to a mutually satisfactory resolution, and the children have witnessed this, we feel a great deal of satisfaction.

More importantly, children assimilate our methods of conflict resolution. Here are a few words of advice based on my experience raising three children:

Be creative

Be open to alternative solutions when conflicts arise. Recently, my children and I had to wait too long in a doctor's office. The three-year-old became fidgety and testy. I reprimanded her a few times, which had the same impact as an umbrella in a hurricane. I searched around and remembered her blanket which, when draped over two chairs, became a tent. She was entertained for the remainder of our visit.

Avoid contests of wills

When our son Andrew was five years old, he refused to set the table at super time one evening. Rather than argue with him, my husband and I remained silent until everything was ready on the table. After Andrew climbed in his seat with his plate before him he said, "Hey, I don't have a fork!" I explained to him that this is what happens when one of us does not carry out his responsibility. He flashed me a sheepish grin.

Be honest

Always being right is not a parental privilege. I apologise to my children when I have reacted angrily or badly. Sometimes this has led to frank discussion with our nine-year-old about how angry we both have been and how we wish to treat each other better.

Invest a little time

Recently, when my five-year-old daughter came home from kindergarten she was obviously out of sorts and began picking fights with her sister and me. I was busy with housework and scolded her offhandedly, which again, was ineffective. Finally I stopped washing dishes, gathered her in my lap and asked her what had happened that day. She told me two of her classmates had pushed her down and another had kicked her. She was upset. But as she talked her whole demeanor changed, and after a few minutes she got down and played peacefully the remainder of the morning.

Keep a sense of humor

Sometimes when I am at the end of my rope, and the children know it, and I know they know it, I give them a stern look and say, "I'll tickle you for that!" This has become one of our methods for diffusing the anger, theirs and mine, and we usually end up giggling.

Most of all, listen

Sometimes, just listen. Children get angry too. Let them say so or teach them appropriate ways to express anger, like writing it down, drawing a picture, or punching a pillow. Use and teach them to use "I" statements: "I feel_____ when _____happens, and I would like _____." Give them opportunities to work things out for themselves and praise them for it.

Have family meetings or regular times to talk. Ask children what they have on their minds, what happened at school, and how they felt in different situations. Let them talk about their conflicts. Discuss how conflicts have been handled and ask what they could have done differently. My brother, who has three children at widely different ages — on high school senior, one seventh-grader, and one in kindergarten — recently began calling family meetings in his home. The children had some unpleasant feedback. My brother and sister-in-law listened noncritically. By creating a "safe" environmnent voice negative feelings, they helped prevent feelings from being expressed in destructive ways. Our family discussions frequently take place at the dinner-table, and each family member has a chance to talk if he or she wants to.

The above article is reprinted from the South Carolina-based magazine Peace and Justice News.

Endangered turtles come home to aid survival of species

By Dina Kyriakidou
Reuter

KEFALONIA, GREECE — Solo slipped into the calm blue sea and quickly swam away from the boats full of cameramen and photographers frantically filming his moment of freedom.

It was the start of an adventure which may help other endangered loggerhead sea turtles win the fight for survival in a world increasingly hostile to the 90-million-year old species.

Solo, Sneaky, Snappy and Pente were taken to England as eggs from a sea turtle's nest, laid too late in the season for them to have hatched. Out of 80 eggs only four hatched in captivity. Then the young turtles outgrew their tanks, and it was time to go home.

"We didn't want them to spend their whole lives in aquariums," said marine biologist James Sutherland.

Mr. Sutherland's team took the nest from the isolated sandy beach of Potamakia and cared for the turtles for nearly four years at Southampton University, in England, before releasing them some 250 metres from their nest.

The first two were freed in May and the other pair were due to be released early this month.

In the unpolluted waters around the green, hilly Ionian Sea island of Kefalonia scientists hope the turtles will be free to forage, possibly mate and return to nest.

At 70-80 cm and 20 kilos, the young turtles will have little to fear from natural predators.

"Unfortunately most danger comes from man," Mr. Sutherland said.

If the turtles sunbathe on the surface, speedboats can cut them to pieces. Long-line fishing can fatally injure them and they can choke on plastic bags they mistake for their favourite jelly fish.

Tourists are another threat. The Ionian islands, where most turtles in the Mediterranean come to nest, are popular with British and German tourists.

But human noise and lights scare the turtles from crawling up the beach at night to big their nests and bury their eggs.

Environmentalists are trying to convince the Greek government and local people that eco-tourism is a profitable alternative to uncontrolled beach development.

In Kefalonia the message seems to have sunk in. Signs and stickers promote the protection of seals and turtles.

But on the island of Zakynthos, the turtles' main nesting place, locals angrily blame ecologists for zoning laws that forbid development on some of the most attractive beaches.

German and British travel agents recently joined in the fight by boycotting Zakynthos until serious measures are taken to safeguard nesting beaches.

Scientists hope that the hatching experiment will provide a last-hope alternative for depleted turtle populations. They estimate between 5,000 and 10,000 Caretta-Caretta turtles survive in the Mediterranean but the number of nests diminishs every year.

"We won't know the result of this for the next 30-40 years, when they reach sexual maturity and hopefully return here," said Mr. Sutherland.

Transmitters have been fitted to two of the turtles, and local fishermen enlisted to help monitor their movements. The elusive sea turtles have been known to travel vast distances, reportedly from the southern coast of the United States as far as the Mediterranean.

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2. Mr. Norman Camier,
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Holyfield beats Holmes in unspectacular match

LAS VEGAS (R) — Evander Holyfield insists he fought a smart fight in beating Larry Holmes to retain his undisputed heavyweight title, but if the reaction of the fans at the fight is any guage his victory was hardly satisfying.

It appears it must have disappointed Holyfield, too.

Just before Friday night's fight at Caesars Palace, Holyfield's financial advisor, Shelly Finkel, quoted the champion as saying: "It won't go past seven rounds."

But the 42-year old Holmes lasted the full 12 rounds before losing on a unanimous points decision. In the process, Holmes, who held the heavyweight title from 1979 to 1985, picked off a lot of Holyfield's punches, slipped others, often held on aid generally frustrated the 29-year-old champion.

"In the George Foreman fight, I was able to hit him with a lot of clean shots. I was in control," Holyfield said afterward, referring to his 12-round unanimous points decision in April, 1991.

"With Larry, I was not able to do that. He fought a good defensive fight. He was able to turn his body, he was able to do tricks. I wanted to lure him to the centre and hit him with counter shots," Holyfield said.

Holyfield's insistence not to be drawn onto the ropes in the 11th round drew boos from the crowd when both fighters just stood still for a few moments.

Holyfield motioned for Holmes to come off the ropes to fight and Holmes patiently waited for the champion to come in.

"He acted as if he was the champion and I had to bring the fight to him," Holyfield said.

Holyfield's natural aggression prodded him into chasing Holmes into the ropes where Holmes would cover up, lashing out every so often with uppercuts and body punches. Holyfield, meanwhile, would insist on throwing looping lefts and rights, which had very little effect on Holmes.

In the fourth round, Holmes, who out-weighed the champion by 23 pounds (10.4 kg), grazed Holyfield with an elbow to his face which did not appear to be accidental. But in the sixth, Holmes hit Holyfield with another elbow that opened up a nasty cut just above the champion's eye.

Holyfield's corner later said they did not think Holmes intentionally used his elbow to give Holyfield his first cut in a professional fight.

With the blood trickling down his cheeck, Holyfield still insisted on fighting inside for several rounds and Holmes was targeting the cut with his jab.

In the later rounds Holyfield, now 28-0, stayed away from the ropes, mixing probes to Holmes's stomach with combinations to the head. Holyfield also moved more from side-to-side, looking to get a good angle on the challenger.

But despite the 13-year difference in ages, Holyfield, who received about $18 million for the fight, was unable to out-muscle the former champion.

There were scattered boos from the crowd in the final two rounds — a mixture of slugging and wariness — as Holyfield was trying to stay out of trouble and Holmes was looking to land a knockout punch.

The result of Holyfield's third defence of the title he won by knocking out James "Buster" Douglas in October 1990, left the champion still undefeated, if uninspiring.

Evander Holyfield

"I thought I could win it," said Holmes, who was paid about $7 million. "But you can't take nothing from the guy. He's a tough fighter and no matter what people say about him, he's a good champion."

Holmes's epitaph for the fight could very well be what he said to Muhammad Ali before beating him in 1980 to retain the title.

"Don't let your mind make a promise your body can't keep."

Olympics' showcase sport inundated by controversy

LONDON (AP) — Five weeks before the start of the summer games, the Olympics' showcase sport appears in turmoil.

Doping scandals, court battles and scheduling disputes have dominated track and field in the buildup to Barcelona.

The controversies raise questions about the accuracy of drug tests, the enforcement of suspensions and the ultimate jurisdiction over the sport and its athletes.

Two superstars, 400-metre world record-holder Butch Reynolds and world sprint champion Katrin Krabbe, are making news for trying to beat drug charges rather than trying to beat their best times.

The Reynolds case has challenged the authority of the sport's world governing body, the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF).

Reynolds, suspended by the IAAF in 1990 for alleged steroid use, turned to U.S. courts to fight the ban. In Columbus, Ohio Friday, a federal judge cleared him to compete in the U.S. Olympic trials this weekend in New Orleans.

The IAAF, whose arbitration panel recently upheld the ban on Reynolds, has vowed to keep him out of the Olympics and threatened to bar any athlete who runs against him.

"The IAAF sees (the court decision) as challenging the competence of the ruling of an international sports body," said IAAF General Secretary Istvan Gyulai. "It is a decision which may lead to chaos ... this might lead to the suspension of all U.S. 400-metre runners at the Olympic Games."

Krabbe, world champion in the 100 and 200 metres, was banned by the German Athletics Federation (DLV) for alleged manipulation of urine samples — only to be reinstated when the federation's legal panel found no evidence of wrongdoing. The case will be heard by the IAAF's arbitration panel on June 27-29.

"We are very, very upset," said Primo Nebiolo, the IAAF president. "We are a family and this is as though our children have become lost. When something like this happens, we just stop and say, 'why did it happen?'

"We have to face the problem and say, 'was it education? Was it a problem with the rules? Why have they fallen into trouble?' For us, this is a tragedy."

"We love and respect athletes like Katrin Krabbe and Butch Reynolds and it hurts us that they are in trouble," Mr. Nebiolo said.

"It's like when one of your children rebels against you. We are sad, but we have an obligation to respect our rules. The rules are the rules, and if we don't respect them we can't move forward."

Also involved in a doping controversy is Delisa Floyd, the two-time U.S. national champion in the women's 800 who received a four-year ban in 1991. She claims the U.S. Olympic drug hotline told her the banned substance was legal. But a judge in Denver refused to lift the ban, saying the responsibility lies with the individual.

The cases have attracted added attention coming on the eve of the Barcelona games, which open on July 25.

"If they had broken the rules last year, we would have been happy to deal with them last year," Mr. Nebiolo said. "But I think it's better to have these problems now than during the Olympics. We will deal with everything that comes our way."

IAAF officials say track's problems are magnified because of the sport's size and recognition.

"You must consider that track and field is by far the most important event at the Olympics," said IAAF Chief of Staff Enrico Jacomini. "The sport is growing. There's lots of money, lots of attention. Inevitably all the problems that come up get a greater audience in the bigger sports than the smaller sports."

The IAAF flexed its muscles to force Barcelona organisers, after seven months of resistance, to change the Olympic track timetable to give U.S. sprinter Michael Johnson a chance to go for gold medals in both the 200 and 400 metres.

But by the time the change was approved Wednesday, Johnson said it was too late: He'd already decided to run only in the 200.

The IAAF said it would go ahead with the changes anyway, but some questioned the wisdom of the whole process.

"I think you should say this is the timetable and stick to it," said John Holt, a former IAAF general secretary. "I disagree with making changes for individual athletes. It's completly unfair. It shows a lack of stability That's not the hallmark of the IAAF, which usually is a stable organisation."

The stability of the IAAF is being tested by the whole Reynolds affair.

Mr. Gyulai said the issue boils down to who should have the authority to govern the sport and enforce its rules.

"Should a court in Ohio have the highest authority in athletics?" he said. "What would happen if the jurisdictions of all 200 member federations challenged the IAAF's ruling?"

The IAAF's stance on Reynolds has the backing of the International Olympic Committee. The drug test was conducted at an IOC-accredited laboratory in Paris.

"I believe the Reynolds case was perfectly well treated by the IAAF and I support their actions," said Prince Alexandre De Merode, chairman of the IOC's Medical Commission. "I believe we have to be firm and strong in our decision."

JORDAN TIMES TEL. 667171

Seles faces a rough ride at Wimbledon

LONDON (R) — The players, the media, even Croatian nationalists — everyone is going to be gunning for Monica Seles at Wimbledon next week.

Seles will need to summon up all her legendary powers of concentration to ignore all the distractions around her.

Players like Steffi Graf, the defending champion, know that Wimbledon offers them the best chance of the year to beat the world number one.

Grass has never been Seles's favourite surface and though she is learning to volley in practice she still has trouble coming to the net in matches.

By contrast Graf, and nine-times champion Martina Navratilova — Seles's projected semifinal opponent — never feel happier than when they walk out on the Wimbledon grass.

German Graf is the bookmakers' favourite to win the Grand Slam event again and Navratilova can never be discounted, even though she has now reached the age of 35 and unexpectedly lost in the second round at Eastbourne this week.

But it is not only the other players that Seles, already winner of the Australian and French Opens, must face.

The British tabloid press, renowned for their love of gossip and their determination in tracking it down, still want to know what happened last year.

Then, Seles, angered Wimbledon organisers by pulling out at the last minute and laying a vague trail of excuses which only served to fuel wild press speculation about dozens of possible reasons for her withdrawal.

Some said she was pregnant, others that she had been in a car accident, while the more cynical suggested she was just trying to protect her number one ranking and a sponsor's bonus linked to it.

Seles was fined $6,000 by the women's Tennis Association (WTA) for the move and a further $20,000 for going to play an exhibition tournament in the United States soon afterwards.

Seles insists the incident is history but she would be naive to expect the dogged Wimbledon media to drop the matter.

The U.S.-based Yugoslav has already side-stepped one controversy.

When Croatian nationalists threatened to demonstrate against her continuing to play as a Yugoslav, she asked Wimbledon officials to list her in the programme as Monica Seles of Sarasota, Florida, her home town.

Whether that will be enough to satisfy her critics remains to be seen.

While men's eighth seed Goran Ivanisevic, a former Davis Cup player for Yugoslavia who now represents Croatia, has always been keen to talk about the situation at home, Serbian-born Seles maintains a strict silence on the matter, preferring to discuss her new haircut or her latest Paris shopping trip.

Seles, who made the Wimbledon quarterfinals two years ago, is known for her nerves of steel but, as Graf could tell her, controversy off the court can affect play on it.

The former world number one went through a bad patch when the German media hounded her family about a paternity case — later dismissed — brought against her father Peter by a nude model.

These days, with all the problems safely behind, Graf is looking good again, although her nerve failed her when she lost the French Open final to Seles two weeks ago after saving five matchpoints.

But Graf is ready to go for her fourth Wimbledon title.

"I am looking forward to it very much," said Graf, who missed the Australian Open because of a virus. "Whenever I get to London it is always special to me."

Navratilova, the record-holder in numbers of Wimbledon titles, feels the same way.

"All my memories of Wimbledon are happy ones," said the American, who last won in 1990." I have played my best tennis there and who's to say I can't win again?"

Third seed Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina, last year's runner-up, is looking more and more at home on grass but number five Arantxa Sanchez Vicario will find it hard not to be distracted by the looming prospect of a possible Olympic title on her favourite surface, clay, in her home town of Barcelona.

While women's tennis presents a huge gap in ability between the top few and the rest, there are still one or two players who could produce upsets.

American Zina Garrison beat Seles and Graf in succession to reach the final two years ago, although her form has been less impressive of late.

The unseeded Linda Harvey-Wild of the U.S. will be full of confidence after beating Navratilova in Eastbourne and tall Dutchwoman Brenda Schultz fancies her chances after winning in Edgbaston last week.

Meanwhile Stefan Edberg of Sweden, the No. 2 seed, will open his Wimbledon campaign Monday against Steve Bryan of the United States after his original opponent, Andres Gomez of Ecuador, withdrew Thursday with a knee injury.

Goran Prpic of Croatia also withdrew from the Grand Slam event Thursday with an ankle injury. The all England club, which runs Wimbledon, replaced Prpic with qualifier Henrik Holm of Sweden. Holm will play fellow-qualifier Grant Doyle, an Australian junior.

Meanwhile the "world's greatest show on grass" is about the only thing which might divert large sections of the British public away from the latest gossip about the royal family, if only until Princess Diana shows herself in the royal box.

Life moves on elsewhere, but at Wimbledon the burning issues remain the same.

What officials wearily acknowledge is that the established characters are still the main attraction.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY JUNE, 21, 1992

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This Father's Day is not the time to become involved with anything of a sinister nature. Be articulate in expressing your views. Combine mental cunning with manual dexterity and skill.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Get a new attitude towards an interesting associate and don't try to get either of them to go along with your views but back up their standpoint.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Look for whatever service you can render another even though it means you have to give out with a little more cash than you had anticipated.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Consider continuing in the same romantic pleasures with your mate instead of an urge now to go off in some different direction just for kicks.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Whatever you have in mind about family affairs is good so pursue them and refrain from wasting time at some outside worldly activity.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You are certainly able now to contact by phone or personally those friends and contacts with whom you have some continuing relationship.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) A day when you can wisely consider your assets and just what you can do to make them more valuable and to enhance their present appearance.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You would be wise to go out in the world and show your charm and ability to please and delight your friends in the world of entertainment, amusement.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) A romantic attitude towards the one of whom you are most fond can be the means by which you have your happiest time now and then make future joint plans.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Your longtime desire to see more of a cooperative and charming friend can now be put in motioin so make appointments for future associations.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Look for that person of prestige who is available to you this day and consult about an ability that you wish to bring before the public.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) A day to look into every source of information by which you can have more scope to your thinking, horizons or your general activities.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Now your hunches are very accurate about how you can best go forward to a better understanding and rapport with the person who is closest to you.

THE BETTER HALF® By Harris

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(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: INEPT TASTY PIGEON FORKED

Answer: She has lots of friends - - - TO "SPEAK" OF

Armenia deals Russia 1st loss in Chess Olympiad

MANILA (R) — Smbat Lputian of Armenia defeated Russia's Alexander Dreev Saturday to hand the Russian team their first loss in the 30th World Chess Olympiad in Manila.

Lputian forced Dreev to resign their adjourned game in 72 moves to a Catalan opening to lead Armenia to a slim 2.5-1.5 victory, but the result only slightly dented Russia's lead over the 112-nation field.

"I'm glad we won, but it seems... we shall fight only for second place because first place is almost sure for Russia," said Armenian team leader Rafael Vaganian, who drew his 10th match Thursday against world champion Garry Kasparov.

"We lost our first match. Dreev's position was already bad although he had some chances for a draw," Russian team Captain Yuri Razuvayev said.

Armenia's victory allowed them to move into second place, 3.5 points adrift of the frontrunning Russians who have 29 points. They were facing the United States in the 11th round with the Americans trailing them by just half a point.

The Russians defeated top rivals the United States and Ukraine in earlier games in the 14-round tournament which ends on June 25. Kasparov's team faced Iceland Saturday.

In women's action, China are seeking to preserve the narrow lead they seized for the first time Thursday over Georgia and Ukraine. The Chinese have 20 points while the Georgians and the Ukrainians are half a point behind.

The Chinese were battling Romania while Georgia met Russia and Ukraine tangled with Latvia Saturday.

"For us, every match is now important," said former world champion Maya Chiburdanidze of Georgia. "We hope to win against Russia and we hope Romania can do very well against China."

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAH HIRSCH

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HALF A LOAF IS NOT NECESSARILY BETTER

Neither vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ A Q 8 4
♡ A Q J
◇ 5 3
♣ K J 7 2

WEST
♠ K 10 3
♡ 9 7 5
◇ A K 8 4 2
♣ 6 4

EAST
♠ Void
♡ 6 4 3 2
◇ Q 10 9 7 6
♣ 9 8 5 3

SOUTH
♠ J 9 7 6 5 2
♡ K 10 8
◇ J
♣ A Q 10

The bidding:

North	East	South	West
1 NT	Pass	3 ♠	Pass
4 ♡	Pass	6 ♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Opening lead: King of ◇

South came close to making the spade slam on this deal from a team match. Unfortunately, that counts only in horseshoes, not in bridge.

North's four hearts was a cue-bid in support of spades. It showed a maximum no trump in support of spades and first-round control of hearts, while denying any lower-ranking ace. South elected to take a shot at slam despite the fact that there was a sure loser in diamonds.

West led the king of diamonds and continued with the ace, ruffed in the closed hand. Declarer had to bring in the trump suit without loss, and the percentage play was to take a finesse. A low spade to the queen won, but when East failed to follow declarer was stranded with a spade loser and suffered a one-trick setback.

At the other table the contract was a more modest four spades, and here, too, the lead was the king of diamonds, followed by the ace. Declarer ruffed and elected to take the spade finesse. But instead of leading a low spade, South led the jack!

Had West played low, declarer would have run the knave and then taken another finesse to pick up the king, so West covered. That proved to be equally unavailing. The ace won, and the trump position was revealed when East showed out. Declarer returned to hand with the king of hearts and led a spade, taking the marked finesse for the ten. Making four-odd with two overtricks.

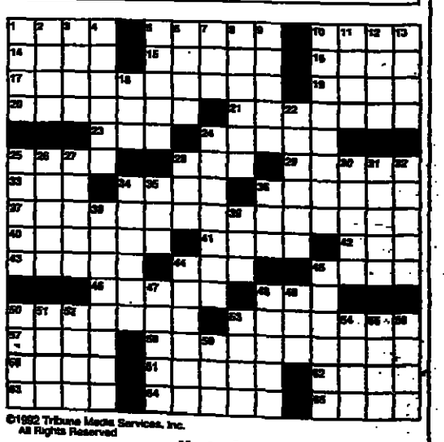
Knowing the percentage play when holding 10 cards in the suit missing the king is only half the problem. Leading the right card is as important to solving the puzzle.

Peanuts

Andy Capp

Mutt'n'Jeff

THE Daily Crossword by Stanley B. Whitten



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ACROSS
1 Rights org.
5 Authoritative statements
10 Stand behind
14 Kind of shark
15 Monsters
16 — Bator
17 Tennis moment of truth
19 — avis
20 Artist's studio
21 Latest fashion (with 7D)
23 Asner and Ames
24 Asteroid of note
25 Pleads
28 Paddle
29 Valle d'— (It. region)
33 Indian
34 Alert
36 Shrewdness
37 James Baldwin novel
40 Celtic heir, in early Ireland
41 12/24 and 12/31
42 Records
43 Trap
44 Lingerie item
45 Dogs
46 Try
48 Refrain syllable
50 Near the seashore
53 Constructed
57 First lady of scat
58 Famous ecdysiast
60 Playwright Simon
61 Attempt again
62 Acting award
63 Carry
64 Reference book
65 Felt sorry

DOWN
1 — mater
2 Ulster
3 Not on time
4 Sam and Remus
5 — out (solves)
6 Stravinsky
7 See 21A
8 Auxiliary ship
9 Daisylike flower
10 Becomes exhausted
11 Jai —
12 Show interest
13 Knot on a tree
18 Concealed
22 Responds to a stimulus
24 Food factory
25 Rams
26 "— Frome"
27 Actress Davis
28 Mine output
30 Grin
31 City near Phoenix
32 "— of robins..."
34 Most sage
35 Louvre contents
36 Woodsman's tool
38 Shopper's event
39 — Marie Saint
44 Villella's field
45 Element
47 Native-born Israeli
48 Low cards
49 — judicata
50 Penny
51 Bread spread
52 Landed
53 Pound of poetry
54 Forbidden
55 Border lake
56 — Scott
59 NATO word: abbr.

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

هكذا من الأصل

Cyprus links pound to ECU

NICOSIA (R) — Cyprus, pushing for membership of the European Community (EC), linked the Cyprus pound to the European Currency Unit (ECU) Friday.

The central bank said the link, which took effect at 1.20 p.m. (1020 GMT), would enhance confidence in the Cyprus pound and prepare the ground for full membership.

"The move... aims at further integrating the (Cyprus) economy to that of Europe and sets in motion the forces for a wider monetary reform and institutional transformation, so that Cyprus will be ready to join the EC as a full member on the first round of enlargement," the bank said in a statement.

Cyprus signed an association agreement with the EC in 1972 and applied for membership in July 1990.

Seventy per cent of the island's total external transactions in goods and services are with the Community.

The bank set the central rate for the pound at 1.7086 ECUs, the prevailing mid-rate as calculated by the trade-weighted basket method in use since July 1973.

It said it would be allowed to fluctuate within a margin of 2.25 per cent above or below the central rate — between upper and lower limits of 1.7470 and 1.6702 ECUs.

The central bank had previously tied the pound to a basket of 15 currencies, including the U.S. dollar and the Japanese yen.

The decision to link the pound to the ECU is a unilateral action. Officials in Brussels said it required no action and imposed no obligations on the EC and its member states.

"The economic performance of Cyprus already converges to a large extent to that of most EC member states, while further measures are envisaged in order to reach and maintain over the next few years the economic criteria that have been set at the Maastricht summit of December 1991," the bank said.

Cyprus still imposes foreign currency restrictions. Interest rates are set by law.

The European Commission welcomed the decision of Cyprus to link its pound to the ECU, noting Cyprus has had a sound economic performance in the last 10 years and close links with the Community.

"This move extends further the zone of monetary stability which is being established in Europe, and it also confirms the importance of the ECU," the commission said in a statement.

It said the move also showed Cyprus's commitment to pursue stability-orientated economic policies.

Arab banks urged to create cartels

DAMASCUS (R) — A senior Arab banker advised Arab banks to consolidate by forming cartels in order to be more competitive.

Adnan Al Hindi, secretary-general of the Union of Arab Banks (UAB) also told Reuters his agency was seeking measures to give depositors more confidence in the Arab banking system.

International banks were creating strong cartels "that Arab banks could not compete with if they were not united," Dr. Hindi said in an interview.

"Arab banks are currently facing several problems and challenges if we take into consideration the new alliances and cartels created within the international banking system," he pointed out.

Dr. Hindi, whose union groups all Arab commercial banks and most central banks said bank desposits in the 21-member countries of the Arab League totalled $338 billion in 1990. Their investment in the same year stood at $450 billion.

"With this volume of money Arab banks could have a big say in international banking affairs if they were united," he said.

"Arab banks should start from now working to achieve greater cooperation and coordination and to create cartels noting that competition wtih international banks had become very strong," the UAB chief said.

Dr. Hindi, in Damascus for a seminar on the insurance of bank deposits in Arab countries, said the Beirut-based UAB which is an Arab League agency, was promoting investment in Arab countries rather than abroad.

It was therefore seeking the best ways of providing confidence in the Arab banking system.

Dr. Hindi said recommendations by the three-day seminar in which 47 bankers from various Arab countries took part urged Arab authorities to give depositors confidence in the banking system.

"Public confidence is the cornerstone for the creation of a good banking system. To protect this confidence depositors should know their money being invested is not at risk," he said.

"Governments could find a mechanism to pay back money to despositors in case of a bank faces any problem and this could be made through payment from the government's central bank or through a special body," he added.

This body, which Dr. Hindi said should minitor the activities of banks, could be financed through contributions from the banks.

Financial Markets

Jordan Times
In co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	NEWYORK CLOSE Date 18/6/92	NEWYORK CLOSE Date 19/6/92
Sterling Pound*	1.8631	1.8585
Deutsche Mark	1.5673	1.5743
Swiss Franc	1.4136	1.4200
French Franc	5.2820	5.2985
Japanese Yen	126.85	127.03
European Currency Unit	1.3016	1.3030

* USD Per Unit
** Unofficial Opening at 8.00 a.m. GMT

Eurocurrency Interest Rates Date 19/6

Currency	1 MTHS	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	3.81	3.81	4.00	4.43
Sterling Pound	9.93	9.87	9.81	9.68
Deutsche Mark	9.59	9.59	9.59	9.50
Swiss Franc	9.12	9.12	8.93	8.62
French Franc	10.00	10.00	10.00	9.87
Japanese Yen	4.62	4.46	4.37	4.34
European Currency Unit	10.40	10.37	10.31	10.25

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Precious Metals Date: 20/6/92

Metal	US$/Oz	JD/Gm*	Metal	US$/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	341.55	6.6	Silver	4.01	.090

* 21 Karat

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.675	0.677
Sterling Pound	1.2532	1.2595
Deutsche Mark	0.4285	0.4306
Swiss Franc	0.4752	0.4776
French Franc	0.1272	0.1278
Japanese Yen*	0.5310	0.5337
Dutch Guilder	0.3802	0.3821
Swedish Krona	0.1186	0.1192
Italian Lira*	0.0566	0.0569
Belgian Franc	0.02082	0.02092

* Per 100

Other Currencies Date: 20/6/92

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7600	1.7700
Lebanese Lira*	0.0388	0.0440
Saudi Riyal	0.1797	0.1815
Kuwaiti Dinar	--	--
Qatari Riyal	0.1830	0.1840
Egyptian Pound	0.2100	0.2250
Omani Riyal	1.7250	1.7380
UAE Dirham	0.1830	0.1840
Greek Drachma*	0.340	0.356
Cyprus Pound	1.495	1.510

* Per 100

CAB Indices for Amman Financial Market*

Index	17/6/92 Close	9/6/92 Close
All-Share	143.53	143.97
Banking Sector	104.66	105.07
Insurance Sector	150.31	150.96
Industry Sector	198.29	198.71
Services Sector	181.79	182.35

* December 31, 1990 = 100

Lloyd's refuses to bail out 'names'

LONDON (AP) — Lloyd's of London has said it will not bail out thousands of individual investors in the insurance market who face huge claims to cover underwriting losses.

But Lloyd's agreed to limit the possible future losses of the so-called "names," who pledged their personal wealth to underwrite insurance risks.

Starting next year individual members' losses will be pegged to 80 per cent of their gross premium limit in a four-year period, Lloyd's Deputy Chairman Alan Lord said at a news conference.

The names, who include lawmakers, sports and entertainment personalities face big cash calls after a series of bad years at Lloyd's caused by a run of natural disasters and claims to clean up pollution.

About one-fifth of the 26,000 names were badly hit in 1989, the latest year for which accounts are being finalised.

They wanted Lloyd's to limit their debts now and share the losses among all the names, but the firm said no.

"There were probably 5,000 names who were badly hit," said Mr. Lord in a radio interview. "There were probably 22,000 names who were not, and I am not sure from which of those two constituencies the biggest cry would have come."

Names face unlimited liability and are required to deposit a third of their underwriting limit. The minimum is £250,000 ($467,500).

Lloyd's refused to dip into its £1 billion ($1.87 billion) central fund for paying any claims that cannot be met elsewhere through the Lloyd's system.

The guarantee that claims would be paid is vital to retain the confidence of policyholders, Mr. Lord said.

In a letter sent to names Wednesday, Lloyd's Chairman David Coleridge wrote, "all the society's available resources must be used to reinforce the security behind Lloyd's policies, which is the cornerstone of our business."

He added there was "no viable scheme" to alleviate the grave personal losses.

Lloyd's now faces legal action from the losers complaining about the way it conducts business.

There is also a hardship fund set up two years ago and administered by a committee chaired by Mary Archer, wife of novelist Jeffrey Archer. It has offered help to only 39 of 1,185 names who have applied.

Successful applicants are allowed to keep their main home, as long as it is not a mansion, and can expect to retain an income well above average while they are given time to pay their debts.

The present system means names are liable for their entire assets if the syndicate through which they operate is facing heavy claims.

In practice, investors who are willing to pay something are not bankrupted and the central fund takes over.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SHMEISANI
TELEPHONE: 660170 / 663170

ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE ACTIVITY FOR SATURDAY 20/06/1992

COMPANY'S NAME	TRADING VOLUME JD	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	15,742	2.850	2.850	2.850
JORDAN KUWAIT BANK	478	1.890	1.890	1.870
THE HOUSING BANK	583,000	2.690	2.650	2.650
ARAB JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	476	2.400	2.380	2.380
UNION BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT	530	2.120	2.120	2.120
ARAB BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN	378	2.000	1.910	1.910
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	1,855	2.650	2.650	2.650
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	3,050	3.050	3.050	3.050
ARAB BANK FOR INVESTMENT/OLD	22,015	1.200	1.190	1.190
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	2,915	1.110	1.100	1.100
REAL SAVINGS&INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	26,127	2.850	2.850	2.810
ARAB BANK	2,360	118.000	118.000	118.000
JORDAN INSURANCE	1,385	2.800	2.770	2.770
JORDAN FRENCH INSURANCE	482	2.400	2.400	2.400
ARAB LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	2,250	2.150	2.250	2.250
ARAB INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	4,200	4.330	4.200	4.200
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	4,458	1.320	1.350	1.330
VEHICLES OWNERS FEDERATION	4,160	5.200	5.200	5.200
JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES	1,235	2.500	2.470	2.470
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & COMMODORE HOTELS	35,771	1.400	1.390	1.410
MACHINERY EQUIP. RENTING & MAINTENANCE	1,428	1.020	1.070	1.030
PETRA ENTERPRISES & EQUIPMENTS LEASING	15,713	0.920	0.910	0.920
JORDAN GULF REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	23,277	0.740	0.750	0.730
JORDAN PRESS & PUBLISHING /AD-DUSTOUR	6,200	3.100	3.100	3.100
ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	2,831	1.550	1.530	1.530
JORDAN DAIRY	32,369	2.500	2.500	2.530
ARAB ALUMINIUM INDUSTRY	315,036	7.600	7.600	7.580
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	458,516	10.300	10.250	10.030
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	258,565	5.750	5.700	5.650
ARAB CHEMICAL DETERGENTS INDUSTRIES	2,125	20.900	21.250	21.250
NATIONAL STEEL INDUSTRY	90,341	4.590	4.650	4.600
DAR AL DAWA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	19,845	6.450	6.300	6.300
INTERMEDIATE PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	990	3.970	3.960	3.960
THE JORDAN WORSTED MILLS	9,455	6.400	6.100	6.100
JORDAN CERAMIC INDUSTRIES	19,150	4.200	4.400	4.350
JORDAN GLASS INDUSTRIES	400	0.790	0.800	0.800
THE JORDAN PIPES MANUFACTURING	1,820	2.600	2.600	2.600
ARAB CENTER FOR PHARM. & CHEMICALS	64,005	3.270	3.280	3.240
NATIONAL INDUSTRIES	3,517	0.620	0.610	0.630
JORDAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	1,013	4.100	4.050	4.050
UNIVERSAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	13,217	14.000	13.900	13.950
SPINNING & WEAVING	10,297	3.180	3.200	3.170
NATIONAL CABLE & WIRE MANUFACTURING	47,698	7.600	7.550	7.600
JORDAN SULPHO-CHEMICALS	36,531	3.690	3.670	3.650
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	29,219	1.350	1.340	1.340
JORDAN PRECAST CONCRETE INDUSTRY	500	0.600	0.600	0.600
UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES	84,927	5.190	5.220	5.170
ARAB INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	219,668	2.250	2.340	2.230
JORDAN TOBACCO & CIGARETTES	16,400	20.000	20.500	20.500
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	64,497	8.760	8.760	8.710
GRAND TOTAL	2,562,608			

NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET : 1120
TRADING VOLUME IN THE PARALLEL MARKET : JD 2240

Petrol retail prices rise on both sides of the Atlantic

LONDON (R) — Summer holiday motorists on both sides of the Atlantic are starting to feel the impact of OPEC's latest bid to boost crude oil prices.

U.S. petrol pump prices are at the highest in 16 months.

In Europe, Britain has seen service station forecourt prices at a record in nominal pound sterling terms, higher than during the crisis in 1990 after Iraq invaded Kuwait.

The British jump drew renewed accusations from the opposition Labour Party that oil companies were gouging the consumer.

"Under the spokescreen of world prices and tax changes they have managed to grab more of the action for themselves," said Frank Dobson, Labour Party spokesman on energy.

George Michalski, vice president at the Dallas-based consulting firm of Turner, Mason and Co., said higher U.S. petrol prices in part reflected a new production accord among the 13 members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

OPEC ministers decided in May to keep output quotas slightly below projected demand for oil in the July-September quarter.

Crude oil prices have edged higher. North Sea Brent blend, the world benchmark, is trading at around $21 per barrel (42 U.S. gallons) compared with $18.50 at the start of the year.

A weekly American Automobile Association survey showed self-service regular unleaded petrol up 1.1 cents at $1.176 a gallon (about 31 cents per litre), its highest since February 1991.

The British rises last week took the price per litre of the favoured premium unleaded grade to 53.9 pence sterling ($1.00).

Generally, taxation makes European petrol pump prices much higher than those paid in the United States, in a rough range between 75 cents and $1.00 per litre.

Oil companies elsewhere may be tempted to follow the trend in Britain and try to sting the summer holiday motorist with increases provided they can make them stick.

Sluggish demand, however, may leave refiners squeezed between high crude oil costs and a flat market for products.

The profit on running a barrel of crude through the average European refinery has roughly halved since December to about $2.00. Refiners say that they, not consumers, are hurting.

A spokesman at Deutsche Shell A.G., a unit of the Anglo-Dutch Shell Group, said pump prices in Germany were not high currently and "there is a strong downward pressure in the market."

German prices ranged between 134 pfennings and 139 pfennings for a litre of 92-octane over the last few weeks — which works out at about 85 U.S. cents. Deutsche Shell tried a price rise of three pfennings on June 3 but strong competition beat it back.

Average petrol prices in France have hardly budged in recent weeks, according to the industry ministry. But there has been a slight rise since the early part of the year.

Elsewhere among typical holiday destinations, pump prices in Spain are set by the government every 15 days. The ceiling is expected to be lifted some time this year to let them fluctuate freely. Companies blame a new petrol tax for a recent rise.

A conservative government in Greece liberalised petrol prices last March. Since then they have gone up about 10 per cent and companies see further rises in line with crude costs.

In other European countries, a tax hike pushed Finnish pump prices up slightly on June 1 when 95-octane rose to around 94 U.S. cents a litre. Prices are now "among the highest ever," an official of state-owned energy company Neste said.

In Denmark a Texaco spokesman said premium leaded petrol was up just over three per cent in three months. Prices now exceed $1.00 a litre but tax cuts have been made to try to stop Danes crossing the frontier to fill up in Germany.

In the Netherlands "prices are relatively high at the moment due to developments in the Rotterdam spot market following May's OPEC deal," a major oil company said.

The table shows latest prices per litre for premium leaded grades in selected west European countries.

Britain	53.9 pence ($1.00)
Denmark	6.20 kroner ($1.02)
Finland	4.00 markka ($0.94)
France	5.31 francs ($1.00)
Germany	134-139 pfennings ($0.85)
Greece	147 drachmas ($0.78)
Netherlands	1.87 guilders ($1.05)
Spain	96 pesetas ($0.74)

Estonia ditches rouble

MOSCOW (R) — The Baltic state of Estonia Saturday became the first former Soviet republic to ditch the rouble currency, exchanging it for its own brightly-coloured banknotes.

The new currency, the kroon, was eagerly exchanged by Estonians anxious to reinforce their independence and empty their wallets of one of the last relics of five decades of Soviet rule.

Local journalists said people queued for kroons at exchange offices around the tiny country, which along with Latvia and Lithuania restored its pre-war independence following last year's failed Kremlin coup.

"Thery're so beautiful. I have to buy a new purse. I don't want to crease them," gasped one young woman as she examined the notes.

The kroon, which will completely replace the rouble within three days, became Estonia's only legal tender from 4 a.m. Saturday.

Estonian residents were being offered 10 roubles for one kroon on sums up to 1,500 roubles, and 50 to one for greater sums. The currency will be convertible and pegged to the German mark at an initial rate of eight kroons to one mark.

Thousands of volunteers manned the country's 800 exchange points. In the capital Tallinn, old women draped in blankets waited all night in some places but the money change appeared to go off smoothly.

"I feel very serene," said Ene Vanjaru, a 22-year-old student.

A housewife standing in front of her interrupted, saying: "it could have come a long time ago."

Asked how her life would change, 38-year-old Rita Laansalu grinned: "I'll start counting my money. It will be much more difficult to take money out of my purse... my wallet will be much thinner."

Rampant inflation has eroded the value of the rouble in recent months, forcing people to carry huge wads of notes to make everyday purchases.

Several former Soviet republics, anxious to assert their independence and shield their economies from problems related to the non-convertible rouble, plan to introduce their own currencies.

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2. Ghost
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TIME FOR WHOM
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in
AL IRHAB AND KEBAB
(Arabic)
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Fighting in Sarajevo holds up U.N. operation to open airport

BELGRADE (Agencies) — Sporadic shelling in the besieged Bosnian capital Sarajevo Saturday held up a U.N. operation to open the city airport and fly in emergency supplies to 300,000 trapped and starving civilians.

Sarajevo Radio said several people were hurt when shells landed in or near a market after people emerged from shelters to look for scarce food. No deaths were reported.

Residents said Serb paramilitary forces had rained shells on Sarajevo through the night from surrounding hills and sporadic gunfire echoed around the city Saturday morning.

A spokesman for United Nations peacekeepers in Sarajevo said the fighting made it impossible to go ahead immediately with an agreement for rival forces to remove their guns from around the airport and open it for emergency airlifts.

"We can't implement an agreement under these conditions," spokesman Adnan Abdul Razek said by telephone from Sarajevo.

"This sort of thing slows down our work. We have to wait until we have a reasonably safe road to the airport. We have to see whether it is quiet."

He said a U.N. team had been pinned down in the airport on the outskirts of Sarajevo by artillery fire. Some of their vehicles were damaged Friday during what he called a major breach of a ceasefire in force since Monday.

Some 7,200 people have been reported killed in about three months of fighting between Serbs resisting Bosnia-Herzegovina's newly won independence from Yugoslavia and mainly Muslim and Croat forces who support secession.

The people trapped in Sarajevo by a more than two-month siege by the Serb paramilitaries are desperate for food, water and medicine which have almost run out. They spend most of their time in shelters because of almost constant shelling.

"Most buildings have been blackened and there is no one on the streets but the military. Just a few people scurry around, hugging walls and running across roads," said Greg Barrowcliff, a representative of the French humanitarian group Equilibre.

He said Equilibre had delivered most of the 130 tonnes of food, medicine, water, stretchers and other supplies which it brought to Sarajevo Thursday in the biggest relief convoy to reach the city for several weeks.

Sarajevo residents said the aid was being handed out to civilians but it was too little to make much difference.

"It is almost impossible to find food — just bread and nettles. Hygiene is also a problem. We have hardly any soap, soap powder or toothpaste and what there is has became very expensive," radio editor Zoran Pirolic said.

The Serb forces have vowed to seize Sarajevo after taking control of two-thirds of Bosnian territory but military experts say a gradual withdrawal of the Yugoslav army from Bosnia has stripped them of vital support in a blow to their war effort.

The Bosnian Muslim-Croat presidency signed an agreement with the U.N. peacekeeping forces Friday under which Serb forces would hand Sarajevo airport to the U.N. and Muslim-Croat units would pull their guns out of range of the runway.

U.N. officials said rival militia commanders had agreed to start reining in their men this weekend but Mr. Abdul Razek made clear the plan would not go ahead as quickly as was hoped.

Fighting has also continued in other parts of Bosnia while media attention is focused on Sarajevo.

Muslim-run media reported fighting in Novi Travnik northwest of Sarajevo and in the northern city of Tuzla. Croatian Radio reported heavy clashes in the northern Bosnian town of Derventa and in Bihac on its western border.

Serbian television reported sporadic fighting overnight in southwestern Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Bosnian officials said Saturday they recaptured Zlatiste, a hill lost to Serbs two days ago, and were advancing around another.

In the ethnically mixed, high-rise suburb of Dobrinja, Serb infantry, tanks and transport vehicles were encircling a housing block, apparently preparing for further attacks. The Serb forces took another high-rise two days ago.

Members of the Armenian militia set a heavy machinegun to confront the Azeri attacks on Nagorno-Karabakh

Rome talks on Karabakh deadlocked

ROME (R) — International peace talks on the ethnic fighting between Armenians and Azeris over Nagorno-Karabakh were deadlocked Saturday, with Armenia accusing Turkey of blocking the negotiations.

"The Rome talks are completely blocked," said Armenian delegation chief Christian Der Stepanian, who accused Ankara of bias in favour of Azerbaijan.

"The Turks are far more active than the Azeris. Their attitude is completely negative and destructive. What we can't understand is why a country that is not even involved in the conflict is blocking the talks."

The 11-nation talks were set back when Azerbaijan refused to allow the session to discuss a major Azeri counter-attack now under way in Nagorno-Karabakh, saying that only on offensive by Armenians last month was on the agenda.

But Armenia charged that Turkey had raised the objection and Azerbaijan had only followed suit.

The fighting over Nagorno-Karabakh, populated mainly by Armenians but placed under Azerbaijan's rule in 1923 by the old Soviet Union, has cost 2,000 lives.

Mr. Der Stepanian hinted that Armenia might press for Turkey to be excluded from the negotiations, convened in a bid to save a peace conference that had been due to open in the Belarussian capital Minsk next Tuesday.

Both Armenia and Azerbaijan say they cannot meet the June 23 date although they want the Minsk conference to start as soon as possible.

But Azerbaijan's chief delegate Nadir Mekhtiev said in Rome: "We could spend all our lives sitting here if things go on like this."

After an earlier threat by Armenia to call for Ankara to be excluded, Mr. Mekhtiev said: "If Armenia asks for Turkey's exclusion, we will demand that France should be excluded. The French consistenly take Armenia's side and are completely partial."

Mr. Der Stepanian said the only hope of ending the deadlock lay in the United States putting pressure on Turkey.

Even an agreement worked out last Thursday on calling a ceasefire before the end of June appeared to be in jeopardy.

Meanwhile, the Armenian majority in Nagorno-Karabakh says Russian military help allowed Azerbaijan to seize the disputed enclave's northern tip in a week of fierce fighting.

Reports that between 50 and 400 Russian tanks, driven by ex-Soviet soldiers, cleared the way for the latest Azeri advanced were initially viewed sceptically in Moscow and abroad. Each side has routinely accused the former Soviet army of intervening on its opponent's side in the four-year conflict.

But Marshal Yevgeny Shaposhnikov, leader of the former Soviet Union's armed forces, said late Friday he did not rule out the possibility of freelance action by individual tank drivers from the ex-Soviet Fourth Army stationed in the region.

Russian television quoted him as saying he would investigate the allegations, which have undermined Russia's relations with both Nagorno-Karabakh Armenians and Armenia itself.

"The problem is that we weren't prepared to fight the army of the Commonwealth of Independent States," Nagorno-Karabakh foreign policy chief Levon Melik-Shakhnazaryan said. "Much of the Fourth Army ... is fighting us and things are going badly."

Nagorno-Karabakh leaders say low casualties in the latest fighting — instead of wholesale killing of civilians — indicates that Russian rather than Azeri troops led the assault. They say the tank drivers spoke Russian with no trace of an Azeri accent.

"Azeris would have slaughtered entire villages," said one official from the Nagorno-Karabakh Security Service, formerly the local arm of the KGB.

Azerbaijan has opted out of military alliances in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) since the Soviet Union collapsed last year. But Russia, which has taken over most of the former Soviet army, last month signed a collective security pact with several former Soviet republics, including Armenia, obliging it to protect Armenia from attack.

Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan reminded Moscow Friday night of its obligation to defend Armenia. A state of emergency has been imposed on two southern Armenian districts.

Parliament ordered a three-month retraining period for all men who have completed military service. Armenia's nationalist Dashnak opposition party has signed up about 3,000 volunteers to join the fight against Azerbaijan, the television said.

Mr. Melik-Shakhnazaryan said Moscow's main aim was to keep oil-rich Azerbaijan, now ruled by the nationalist Popular Front which opposes Commonwealth membership, from turning towards Turkey.

"In any event, Azerbaijan is going to turn its back on Russia and its face towards Turkey," Mr. Melik-Shakhnazaryan said.

"At the same time, Russia is losing the trust of a friendly nation, Armenia. And that will be hard to win back."

Moldovan forces destroy 3 army tanks in clashes

KISHINYOV, Moldova (R) — Moldova said its forces destroyed three Russian army tanks Saturday in an upsurge of violence in its breakaway Russian-speaking Dnestr region.

At least eight people died in the latest fighting in the former Soviet republic bordering Romania, with Moldovan forces and militia defending the interests of Russian-speakers fighting for control of the town of Bendery.

Radio Russia said thousands of people had gathered outside an ex-Soviet army base, demanding weapons to defend the Dnestr Soviet Socialist Republic proclaimed by ethnic Russians and Ukrainians.

A defence ministry statement, broadcast on radio, said four tanks belonging to the former Soviet 14th Army crossed a bridge over the Dnestr River leading to Bendery, 70 kilometres southeast of the Moldovan capital, Kishinyov.

"Three tanks were hit by hand-held anti-tank grenade launchers and caught fire. The fourth tank retreated from the battlefield," the statement said.

Moldova has accused the 14th Army of the former Soviet Union of siding with the separatists, who oppose moves by Moldova's ethnic Romanian majority to forge closer ties with Bucharest.

Russia denies the charge. But military leaders said they may be unable to prevent intervention by Slavs massing to defend their interests.

"General Yury Netkachev, commander of the 14th Army, stated that the army continues to observe neutrality, but it is unlikely it will be possible to restrain those assembled from seizing arms equipment," the radio said of the demonstration outside the base.

"Many servicemen of the 14th Army are getting ready to come to the defence of their homes."

In a separate development, Russia said Friday its forces had fired warning shots at Georgian units in the disputed enclave of South Ossetia but rejected charges that it had mounted an armoured attack.

Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze earlier accused Russian Armed Forces of openly backing the region's separatists, who want to unite with ethnic neighbours in Russia.

Mr. Shevardnadze said in a statement that three helicopters bearing Russian Air Force markings attacked villages and Georgian National Guard positions in the enclave Thursday, killing and wounding several people.

Russian Vice-President Alexander Rutskoi told ITAR-TASS News Agency that two helicopters had fired warning shots at Georgian tanks to stop them shelling Tskhinvali, the enclave's capital.

"The rounds fired by the helicopters landed between 50 to 80 metres from the tanks and caused no damage at all, but forced them to stop shelling the town," TASS quoted Mr. Rutskoi as saying.

Hundreds of people have been killed since early last year in fighting between Georgian nationalists and Ossetians over the mountainous territory.

U.S. attitude blocking more nuclear arms cuts

STOCKHOLM (R) — The march toward a nuclear-free world, as typified by the new U.S.-Russian arms reduction deal, can only reach its goal when Washington gives up its role as a "super superpower," an arms monitoring group said.

Adam Rotfeld, director of the Stockhom International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), said massive cuts in nuclear arms agreed by the former cold war enemies marked important progress in disarmament.

However, Mr. Rotfeld said, the United States had failed to agree larger weapons cuts, particularly in submarine-launched nuclear warheads, because it remained attached to a cold war image as a global military force.

"The American military establishment didn't change their global understanding," Mr. Rotfeld said in an interview following release of SIPRI's 1992 Yearbook on World Arms and Disarmament.

Like an amputee who still feels a severed limb, he said, the United States "does not have an enemy ... but they still have the pain. The reaction is to something that doesn't exist."

U.S. President George Bush and Russian President Boris Yeltsin agreed Tuesday to cut their arsenal of strategic nuclear warheads, now numbering about 10,000 each, to 3,500 and 3,000 respectively.

As part of the deal, Washington agreed to halve the number of its nuclear warheads on submarines to 1,750, while Russia agreed to cancel all of its land-based multiple-warhead missiles, the most deadly portion of its nuclear force.

Mr. Rotfeld said the United States needs only about 2,000 warheads, including a few on submarines, to keep as a deterrent against attack. Russia would no doubt agree to those levels because of its weakness after the Soviet collapse, he said.

He said for Washington to go beyond Tuesday's deal it must change its view of itself to that of a stabilising force working through international institutions, rather than what he called a "super superpower," single-handedly bearing vast responsibility.

Nevertheless, Mr. Rotfeld said, the day could be envisioned when nuclear weapons were eliminated. In addition to the changes in U.S. thinking, this would require a period of domestic political stability in Russia and elsewhere in the world.

"Before the end of this century, it is probably not very realistic, after that it is," he said of the chances for total elimination of nuclear weapons.

SIPRI said in its yearbook that advances had been made during 1991 in controlling the spread of nuclear arms to other countries, but that the threat of proliferation was serious.

It said progress included the agreement by U.N. Security Council members France and China to join a 1968 non-proliferation treaty, but doubts remained about China's reliability.

Furthermore, the potential remained that the former Soviet empire, including Russia itself, could disintegrate further and lose control over its nuclear arsenal, it said.

U.S. appears cool to U.N. proposals for standby force

UNITED NATIONS (R) — A proposal by Secretary-General Boutros Ghali Friday for a U.N. military force appears to have run into opposition from the United States, though Russia shows signs of supporting the idea.

While governments have not commented officially on the proposal, a letter to Dr. Ghali from the U.S. State Department indicates considerable reservations about the permanent standby force that would be supplied by member states.

The U.N. chief's proposal was one of the highlights of a 52-page report on preventive diplomacy, peacemaking and peacekeeping requested by world leaders at a British-organised Security Council summit meeting in January.

In the report Dr. Ghali draws a distinction between peacekeeping forces, which the United Nations has deployed for decades, usually after a ceasefire and with the consent of the opposing parties, and the proposed force to either pre-empt or halt a conflict.

The ready availability of armed forces could serve as a means of deterring aggression since all states would be aware that the Security Council "had at its disposal a means of response," Dr. Ghali wrote.

"Such units from member states would be available on call and would consist of troops that have volunteered for such service. They would have to be more heavily armed than peacekeeping forces and would need to undergo extensive preparatory training within their national forces," he said.

This is provided for under Article 43 of the U.N. charter, but has never been invoked because of cold war tensions. It would also involve the activation of the U.N. Military Staff Committee, which has also remained virtually dormant since the United Nations was founded in 1945.

But Dr. Ghali indicated that such a force could not cope with major powers with advanced weaponry.

"Forces under Article 43 may perhaps never be sufficiently large or well enough equipped to deal with a threat from a major army equipped with sophisticated weapons. They would be useful, however, in meeting any threat posed by a military force of a less order," he wrote.

Before the report was issued, John Bolton, the U.S. assistant secretary of state for international organisations, cautioned against organising military forces under Article 43.

"You are aware of our reservations concerning both activation of the Military Staff Committee and (U.N.) secretariat involvement in negotiating agreements providing the Security Council military forces under Article 43 of the charter," he said in an unpublished letter.

In contrast, a letter from Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev said Moscow was considering proposals to create "rapid-response contingents which could be recruited on a contracting basis from within special forces of different countries."

"It could by itself become an important factor of discouraging potential aggressions and other breakings of peace," said Mr. Kozyrev.

De Klerk rejected by angry township crowd

BOIPATONG, South Africa (R) — South African President F.W. De Klerk was chased out of a squatter settlement Saturday by hundreds of blacks accusing him of complicity in the worst massacre of the post-apartheid reform era.

Mr. De Klerk, seated in the back of a car, looked terrified as hundreds of enraged youths swarmed around yelling: "Go away murderer."

"Shoot, shoot," the crowd yelled as panic-stricken policemen waved automatic rifles in a fruitless attempt to prevent the youths from hammering on the doors and roof of the president's car.

The tour of this squalid shanty down south of Johannesburg was expected to be a show of compassion for families of the 39 men, women and children massacred Wednesday night.

The visit lasted only 10 minutes and Mr. De Klerk's spokesman Caspar Venter shook his head before disappearing into the crowd.

Frantic officials screamed "We've lost him," we've lost him."

Police opened fire on a crowd which chased Mr. De Klerk from a squatter camp, killing at least one person.

Police confirmed one death but residents of the Boipatong shanty town south of Johannesburg said there could be more than 10 killed or wounded.

Mr. De. Klerk said the hostile protest was not spontaneous.

"My political opponents will say it was a spontaneous reaction. I have no doubt it was the opposite," he told a news conference.

EC: Czechoslovakia will regret split

LUXEMBOURG (R) – The EC leadership warned Czechoslovakia's politicians Saturday that they would regret the decision to split the 74-year-old country into two independent states.

Portuguese Foreign Minister Joao De Deus Pinheiro, whose country holds the European Community's rotating presidency, described the announcement early Saturday as "very bad news."

"I think they'll regret it," Mr. Deus Pinheiro told reporters as he arrived for a meeting of foreign ministers to prepare for an EC summit in Lisbon next week.

The agreement to split Czechoslovakia was read to reporters in Bratislava by Vladimir Meciar, leader of the Movement For Democratic Slovakia (HZDS) — the strongest party in the country's eastern region.

It was countersigned by Czech Prime Minister-Designate Vaclav Klaus, whose Civic Democratic Party (ODS) won this month's elections in the western Czech Republic.

Frans Andriessen, the EC's external relations commissioner, described the decision as bad news and said it would obviously force the Community to review the legal basis of a so-called association agreement signed late last year.

The agreement, like identical pacts signed with Hungary and Poland, provides preferential trade terms for Czechoslovakia and limited political consultation between Prague and the EC states.

Mr. Andriessen said he recognised that the likely problems with the association agreement were not the worst facing Czechoslovakia now.

"The real problem is how they will survive," he said.

Bush woos conservative California voters

NEWPORT BEACH, California (Agencies) — President George Bush is aggressively wooing conservative voters in California, the nation's most populous state and a place where the president trials Texas billionaire Ross Perot in opinion polls.

Bush flew to California after what he called a "really historic" summit with Russian President Boris Yeltsin. He doffed his jacket after touring the Evergreen Oil Recycling Company in Newark, California, and fielded questions for a half-hour from 350 employees and their families.

But no one asked about the summit or the reduced threat of nuclear annihilation.

They wanted to know what Mr. Bush planned to do to help check soaring medical costs, improve schools struggling with budget cuts, safeguard the environment and get the sputtering economy moving again.

Outside the plant, hundreds of demonstrators carried signs denouncing Mr. Bush as "the extinction president" and " the environmental wimp."

Mr. Bush defended his record and his refusal to sign the biodiversity treaty last week at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

"If you're asking me to choose between throwing 30,000 or 15,000 families out of work or the (spotted) owl," Mr. Bush said he will lean toward the former.

Someone asked Mr. Bush why voters were deserting him "for somebody like Ross Perot? You've spent your whole life in the public service and he hasn't."

Mr. Bush hastened to point out that he spent half his life in the private sector.

"I wear the business as a badge of honour," he said.

One woman asked Mr. Bush why he didn't call-in questions on television "like Bill Clinton and Ross Perot ... why don't you do this more?"

"Well, I've been doing it, ever since I've been in politics," Mr. Bush told her. "We had a thing called 'ask George Bush' when these other guys hadn't even started on this kind of an event."

But he said he didn't want to turn the White House "into a call-in show place."

Mr. Perot, who has not officially announced his independent candidacy, also visited California Thursday. He was in Sacramento, the state capital, to drop off petitions with a million signatures — more than seven times the necessary number — to get his name on the ballot.

He also held a rally that drew 5,000 supporters, many of them dissatisfied Republicans who see Mr. Bush as a business-as-usual insider and Mr. Perot as the agent of change.

Although Mr. Bush got 62 per cent of the Republican vote in Orange County in the June 2 party primary, an exit poll for the Orange County Register found that voters would prefer Mr. Perot over Mr. Bush in November by a margin of 41 per cent to 27 per cent. Likely Democratic nominee Bill Clinton got 13 per cent. Orange County is a key Republican Party stronghold in California.

The polls show Mr. Bush's support slipping. In April, Mr. Perot and Mr. Bush were in a statistical dead heat in Orange County.

Meanwhile Jesse Jackson, insulted because Mr. Clinton upstaged him with a blast at a black rap singer last week, hinted Wednesday that he may not back Mr. Clinton for president and revealed he would court Mr. Perot to support a jobs scheme.

The black activist was seething that Mr. Clinton used a Jackson-sponsored forum to attack rapper Sister Souljah for suggesting blacks kill whites.

"I know that we reached out to him to build a bridge," Rev. Jackson told FOX-TV Morning News. "He pushed off from us to make a point that he's strong. And it's very difficult to embrace people while they're pushing you off."

Separately Wednesday, New York Governor Mario Cuomo urged Mr. Clinton, Rev. Jackson and Souljah to sit down and iron out their differences for the sake of the Democratic Party.

Rev. Jackson, who had hinted before the Saturday incident that he would like to be Mr. Clinton's vice-presidential running mate, said he would meet with likely independent presidential candidate Perot to court support for a $500 billion project to put unemployed Americans back to work. But there was no hint in the interview that Rev. Jackson would support Mr. Perot.

Mr. Clinton Wednesday called the Bush administration a bastion of the nation's "economic elite" who have no right to lecture Americans on morality.

Mr. Clinton, in an address to America's largest public employees union, struck back at Vice President Dan Quayle's charges that he, New York Governor Mario Cuomo and other Democratic leaders are part of a "cultural elite" that denigrates traditional family values.

"The Bush administration and the vice president represent an economic elite of the county," Mr. Clinton said, "the people who made more in the '80s by doing less and paid less taxes and are now giving lectures to the people who worked harder for less money and paid more taxes."

Mr. Clinton zeroed in on Mr. Quayle for a personal attack.

"I've read a book or two in my life and maybe that qualifies me (for the cultural elite)," Mr. Clinton told a crowd of about 5,000 at the National Convention of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees.

"But when Dan Quayle and I were kids, he was the son of a publishing magnate and I lived part of my life in a house without indoor plumbing."

COLUMN 10

'Premarital cohabitation linked to more divorce'

LONDON (R) — Couples who live together before marriage are 60 per cent more likely to have divorced after eight years of marriage than those who do not, according to a new British survey. The report, by the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys, said similar trends had been found in Canada, the United States, and Sweden. Premarital cohabitation grew from a few per cent in the mid-1960s to over 50 per cent of couples in the late 1980s. Survey authors say the result does not establish a causal link between premarital cohabitation and divorce. Some researchers believe that premarital cohabition reflects a weaker commitment to marriage resulting in higher rates of marital breakdown. They also think that cohabitation attracts those who are more unconventional in their beliefs and lifestyles — characteristics which tend to be held by those who are more likely to consider and seek divorce.

Japanese studies 'anti-AIDS virus' herb

TOKYO (R) — Japanese drugmaker Eisai and Oil Company Tonen Corp. are researching a herb which may curb the spread of the HIV virus, an Eisai official said. Laboratory tests on isolated human cells have shown that the substance can prevent the spread of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) among live cells, although it cannot kill it, he added. The virus leads to AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome). The substance is derived from the stem of the Merremia Mammosa plant, the official told Reuters. He said Eisai and Tonen were carrying out basic research and laboratory tests on the substance but at the moment had no plans for developing it into a commercial drug to treat AIDS. "It's just one of our numerous research projects. Neither Eisai nor Tonen are carrying out the research in order to make and sell an anti-AIDS product," the Eisai official said. He said Merremia Mammosa was used in Indonesia both as a herbal medicine — to treat diabetes, tuberculosis, dysentery and some types of venereal diseases — and, in some parts of the country, as food.

Hollywood wants Charles-Di marital story — writer

LONDON (R) — The writer of a controversial book which charges that Princess Diana staged suicide attempts because of an unhappy marriage to Prince Charles said he had been approached by Hollywood. Andrew Morton, whose book Diana: Her True Story has caused a sensation in Britain, said he had been contacted by an unnamed Hollywood company to be executive producer of a television mini-series of his book. "I shall have to think very carefully about that," Morton, who was celebrating the publication of his book this week in his hometown of Leeds in northern England, told the YorKshire Evening Post newspaper. A spokesman for his publishers Michael O'mara books said: "a Hollywood company has made an offer for the mini-series rights, and we are considering it." Morton's agreement was needed for the project, which would dramatise the alleged rifts in the marriage of the heir to the British throne and his younger wife the Princess of Wales. The relationship between the royal couple has been dramatised for television once before, in a film called The Royal Romance of Charles And Diana, made in 1982 by the American network CBS. A two-hour ABC-TV special Charles And Diana, A Royal Love Story recreated the 1981 wedding.

Britain moves on homosexuality in armed forces

LONDON (R) — Homosexuality in Britain's armed forces would cease to be a criminal offence under plans announced by the government. Defence Procurement Minister of State Jonathan Aitken told parliament the government would introduce legislation so that homosexuals would no longer be liable to prosecution under military law and at risk of a criminal record. "It is now the view of the government ... that such criminal proceedings should no longer be brought," he said, adding: "This is a sensible measure of decriminalisation whose purpose is to tidy up the difference between military and civil law." A ban would stay in force for the time being and any personnel found taking part in homosexual activity should expect to be dismissed, he said.